You're my Pet

5

Yayoi Ogawa

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KIMI WA PET

—5—

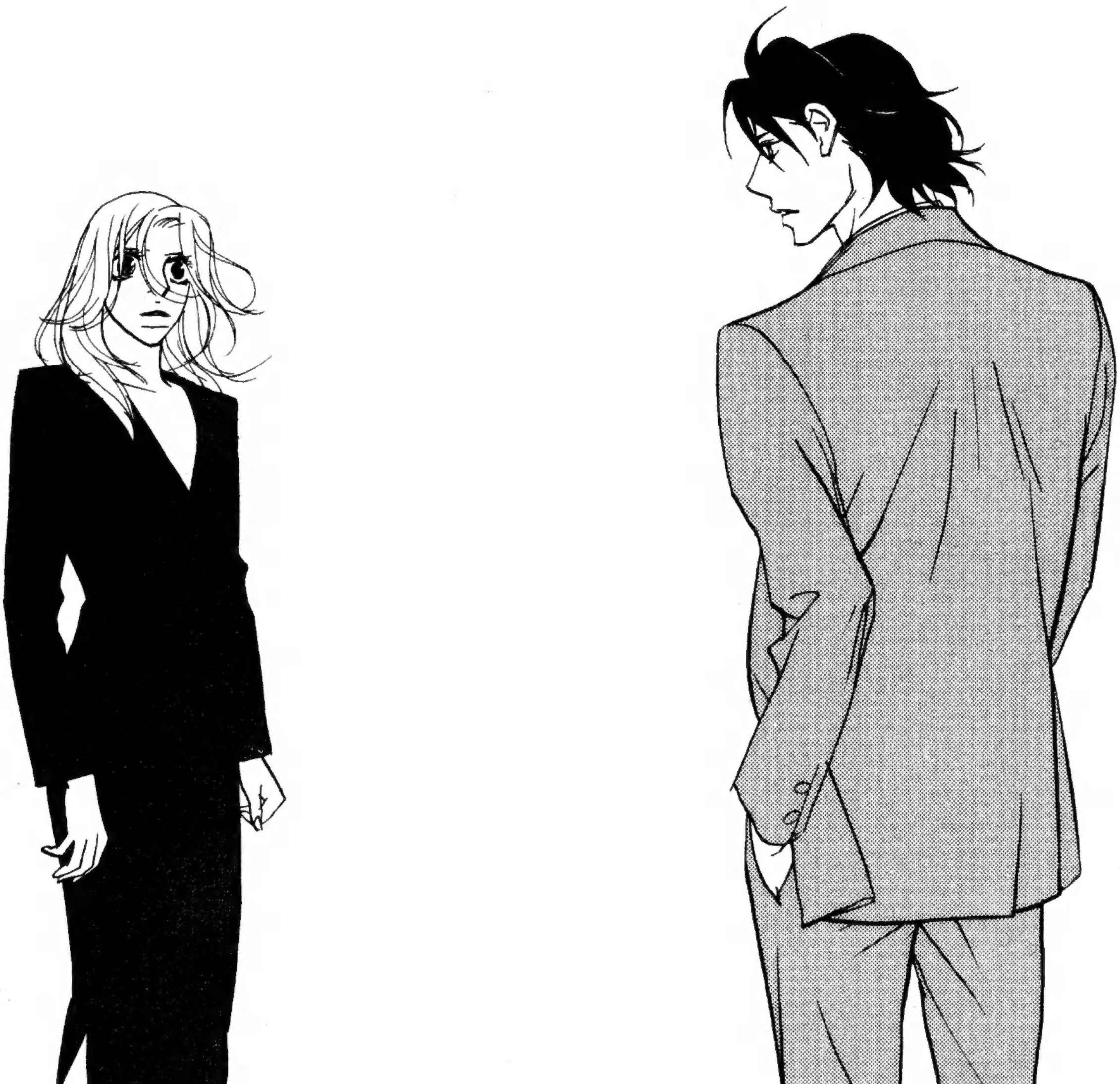
YAYOI OGAWA

小川彌生

You're My Pet

BY YAYOI OGAWA

VOL. 5



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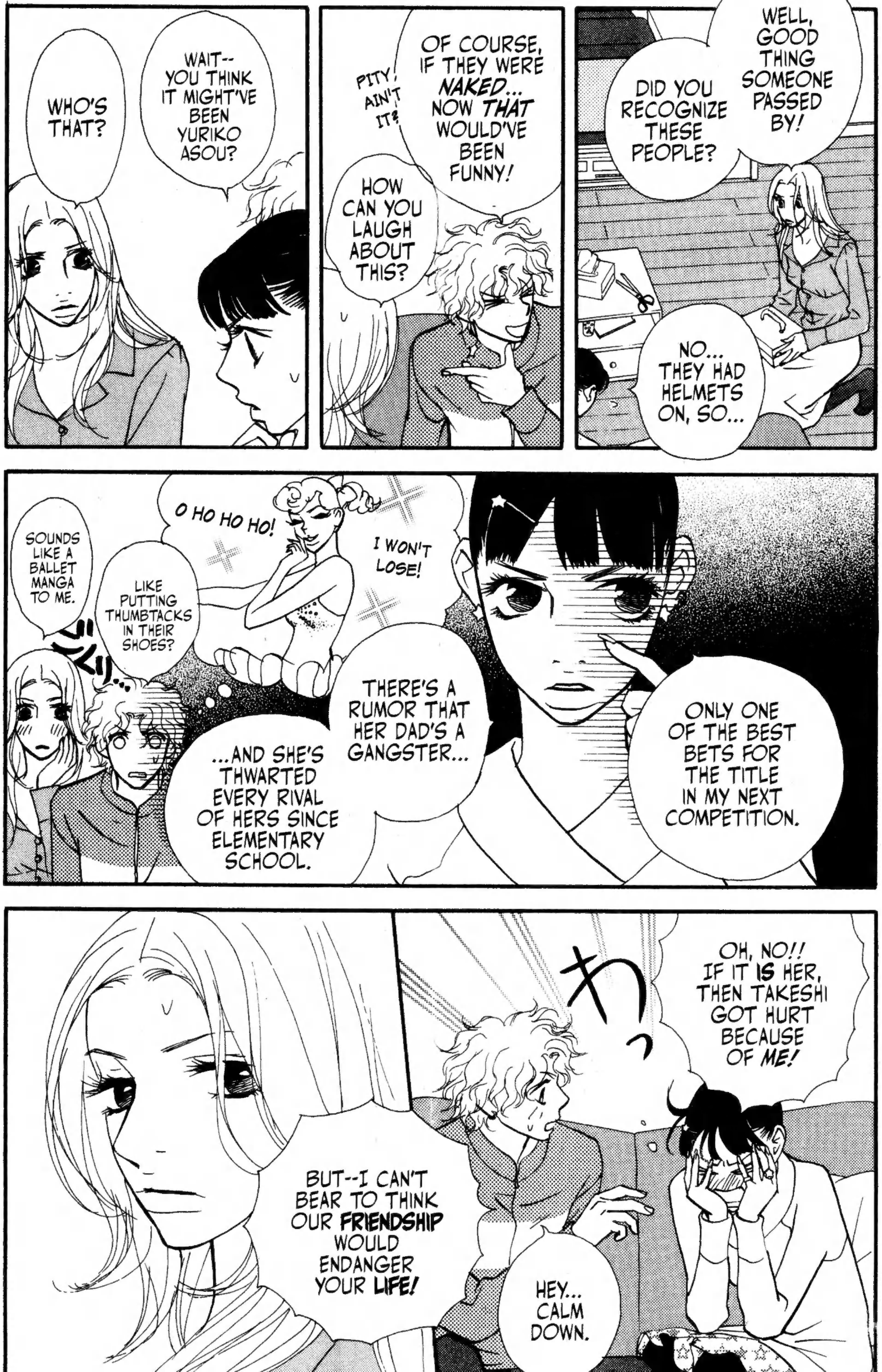
Rule23

HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW?

OH, NO...IT'S COMPLETELY DARK ALREADY!
WELL, IT'S WINTER, SO...YOU KNOW...
IT'S KINDA CREEPY WALKING HOME ALONE...
ちらっ
THAT'S OKAY! WITH THIS ON, NO ONE WILL BOTHER YOU!
HERE YA GO! ♡
WALK ME HOME.
WHY DON'T YOU LET YOUR MAN DO IT?
AREN'T YOU GOING OUT WITH THAT PRIVATE TUTOR?
EH. I'VE ALREADY BROKEN UP WITH THAT PRICK.

HE WAS ANNOYING, DISGUSTING, AND HAD HAIRY MAN-BREASTS.
IS THAT SO...?
BESIDES...I STILL...
WH-WHO THE HELL ARE THEY?
FORGOT TO TAKE OFF THEIR HELMETS, HUH?
HEH HEH.
SOMEHOW, I DOUBT IT.

ヒュン
EEEEK!
YOU WERE ATTACKED?
SOB
SOB
SOB
YES...BUT I WAS OKAY...
TAKESHI WAS THERE... TO PROTECT ME...
...OH, TAKESHI!
IT'S ONLY A FLESH WOUND. I'M FINE.
BUT--!
OUR SHOW IS SCHEDULED SOON! IF YOU CAN'T DANCE--
IT'S OKAY. NOTHING'S BROKEN.


WELL, GOOD THING SOMEONE PASSED BY!
DID YOU RECOGNIZE THESE PEOPLE?
NO... THEY HAD HELMETS ON, SO...
OF COURSE, IF THEY WERE NAKED... NOW THAT WOULD'VE BEEN FUNNY!
PITY! AIN'T IT?
HOW CAN YOU LAUGH ABOUT THIS?
WAIT-- YOU THINK IT MIGHT'VE BEEN YURIKO ASOU?
WHO'S THAT?
ONLY ONE OF THE BEST BETS FOR THE TITLE IN MY NEXT COMPETITION.
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT HER DAD'S A GANGSTER...
...AND SHE'S THWARTED EVERY RIVAL OF HERS SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
I WON'T LOSE!
O HO HO HO!
LIKE PUTTING THUMBTACKS IN THEIR SHOES?
SOUNDS LIKE A BALLET MANGA TO ME.
OH, NO!! IF IT IS HER, THEN TAKESHI GOT HURT BECAUSE OF ME!
HEY... CALM DOWN.
BUT--I CAN'T BEAR TO THINK OUR FRIENDSHIP WOULD ENDANGER YOUR LIFE!

*A JAPANESE NAME FOR A BLOW-UP DOLL USED FOR SEX.

OKAY?
HE SPOILS HER TOO MUCH.
A FEW DAYS LATER...
THANKS FOR THE RIDE HOME... SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU.
NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
AFTER ALL...I WANT TO BE WITH YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
SENPAI...

MS. IWAYA!
びくっ
SOME-THING AWFUL'S HAP-PENED!
TAKESHI GOT--
WHAT'S WRONG WITH TAKESHI?
WHO'S THIS?
WELL...
...HE WAS MY UPPER-CLASSMAN AT COLLEGE...
I'M HASUMI FROM KODAN NEWSPAPER.
IS HE...YOUR BOYFRIEND?

MMF! MMF!
EXCUSE US FOR A SECOND.
WHY YOU SLY--!
NICE TO MEETCHA! I'M TAKESHI'S GIRLFRIEND, RUMI!
SUMIRE'S BEEN TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME!
UH, LIKEWISE.
AND TAKESHI IS...
LET'S TALK, SHALL WE...?
PSST
PSST
PSST
BUT...IF YOU'VE GOT SUCH A COOL BOYFRIEND, WHY ARE YOU AND TAKESHI--
SHH!
HE THINKS "TAKESHI" IS MY SECOND COUSIN!
AND YOU NEED TO KEEP ME FROM SCREWING YOUR STORY UP, IS THAT IT?!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE GUYS WHO ATTACKED US YESTERDAY...

...ABDUCTED HIM IN THEIR CAR!!
WHAT?!
BUT THEN-- HE'S BEEN KIDNAP-PED?!
YOU MEAN *TAKESHI* WAS THE ONE THEY WERE AFTER?!
LOOKS LIKE IT.
WE HAVE TO REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE.
YES.
GETTING THE POLICE INVOLVED ← PEOPLE FIND OUT I KEEP MOMO AS A PET
はっ
OOPS! WAIT A SEC!
HUH? WHY?
WELL--IT'S JUST--
WE CAN'T GET THE POLICE INVOLVED.
THAT MIGHT PUT TAKESHI IN EVEN *MORE* DANGER!

UGH! OOF!
OH MY, HE'S NOISY. A LITTLE AIR FOR THE BOY, PLEASE.
I CAN THINK OF A FEW PLACES...
SOUNDS GOOD. LET'S GO.
HEY-- WAIT!
I HAVE A CAR, YOU KNOW!
SINCE YOU WOULDN'T COME TO SEE ME, I CAME TO PICK YOU UP. ♡
LONG TIME NO SEE, TA-KUN.
...BUT IT SEEMS HE'S BEEN ASKING *EVERYWHERE* ABOUT TAKESHI.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM...
SEE, THERE'S THIS GUY NAMED *TAKEDA*-SAN THAT TAKESHI USED TO HANG OUT WITH.

TAKESHI WAS KIDNAPPED?
I SEE...SO **THAT'S** THE WAY THEY DO IT, HUH?
I KNEW IT! SOMEONE ASKED YOU TO TRACE TAKESHI...
...YOU KNOW WHO GOT HIM, RIGHT?!
DAMN RIGHT. I AIN'T GONNA TELL YOU, THOUGH.
BASTARD!
OH, HE'S FINE. THEY WON'T KILL HIM...
...PROB'LY. HEH HEH.
?!
LOOK, KID.
YOU WANNA TALK, OR YOU WANT A CRUSHED LARYNX?

HE CONFESSED PRETTY EASILY, DIDN'T HE? ♪
YEAH...
YOU LOOK A LITTLE PALE...YOU OKAY?
OF COURSE NOT. HE'S SCARED OF YOU.
THAT'S IT--CLUB KAWLOON, RIGHT?
THAT'S ONE OF ITS NAMES, ANYWAY...
...TAKESHI USED TO WORK HERE AS A LIVE-IN.
SO HE OWES THE OWNER MONEY, EH?
WELL, SHALL WE BEGIN OUR SEARCH?
HOLD ON A SEC.
YOUR OUTFIT'S TOO EXPENSIVE FOR THIS CLUB.
LET ME GET YOU SOME CLOTHES.

LOOK, OWNER ...
...DIDN'T I PAY BACK ALL THE MONEY THROUGH TAKEDA-SAN?
SEE VOLUME 1.
SWEETIE... A DEBT ALWAYS CARRIES *INTEREST.*
EH...? BUT YOU TOLD ME "WE CAN GO WITH NO INTEREST," AS LONG AS I GRABBED YOUR... ♡
WOULD YOU PREFER THE *INTERROGATION CANDLE?*
UH, NEVER MIND.
SO HOW MUCH IS THE INTEREST?
$150,000.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

WELL, IF YOU CAN'T PAY ME ONE WAY, YOU CAN PAY ME **ANOTHER.** ♡
THOUGH YOU DID GET AWAY CLEAN LAST TIME...
...BUT YOU'RE ON THE **BOTTOM** THIS TIME, SO YOU'LL BE OKAY.
MERCURY, BABY...SHOW HIM A GOOD TIME.
Come on.
WHOA-- I GOT A FOREIGNER, OF ALL MEN!!
LOOKS PRETTY WELL-ENDOWED, TOO.
DOES THIS MEAN I'M GONNA GET BIGGER... BACK ***THERE?***
OH, NO... STOP... DON'T...!!
HEY...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE GONNA BE *TAPING* THIS!
OH...! OH...! HOW EXCITING...!

DON'T WE STAND OUT EVEN MORE LIKE THIS?
TRUST ME.
BOOM
WHAT?!
I SAID NO!
BOOM
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS NOISE?! WE CAN'T HEAR EACH OTHER AT ALL!
WELL, IT IS A CLUB...
...DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE OF THESE.
HOW DO I USE THIS?
DRINK TICKET
YOU, TOO?!
GIMME A BREAK!
BOOM
BOOM

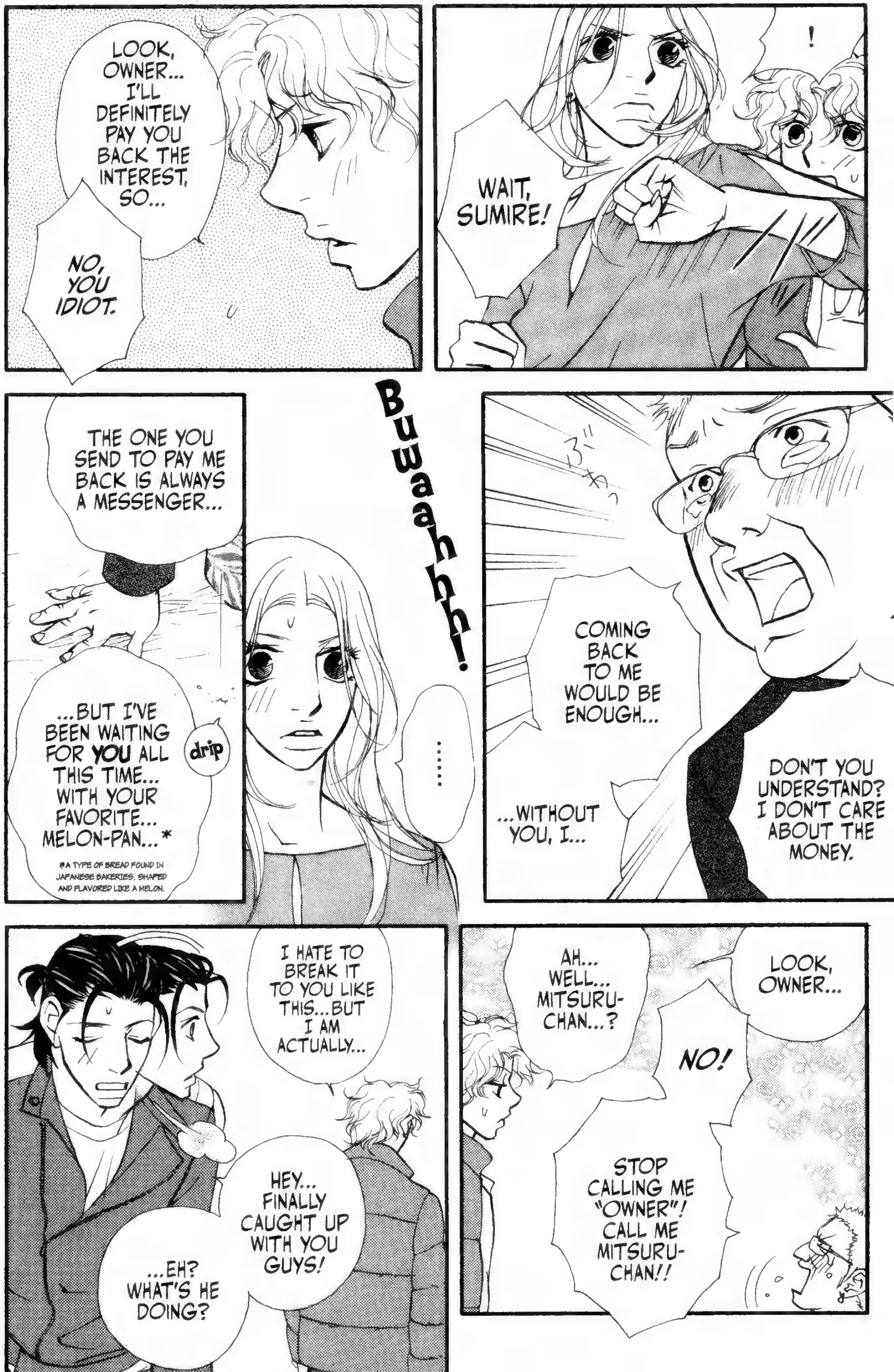
BOOM
MOMO?!
HEY, MS. IWAYA!
BOOM
EXCUSE ME, PLEASE.
EXCUSE ME.
コケッ
BOOM
HEY!
EEEKK!
grab
BOOM
WHOA!
BOOM
bzzt bzzt bzzt

I HEARD IT!!
HEARD WHAT?
MOMO'S VOICE!!
MOMO ...?
EH, SHE'S TENSE, SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S SAYING.
NEVER MIND.

AHH-- STOP!
I BIT MY TONGUE!
OH-- THAT WAY!
HMM... WHAT...?!
SUMIRE-CHA...

*ONE OF THE GREATEST SUMO WRESTLERS IN JAPAN, FAMOUS FOR HIS MANY TECHNIQUES.

スカッ
OH, IS THIS MS. IWAYA'S EARRING?
BACK FIST
パキ
MS. IWAYA, IS THIS--
ドサ!
OOPS.
THAT HASUMI-KUN IS SOMETHING ELSE.
HE DID SAY HE PRACTICED BOXING IN HIGH SCHOOL.
SORRY-- ARE YOU OKAY?
NO-- I MEAN THE WAY HE FEIGNS INNOCENCE.
END OF THE LINE, PEOPLE.


!
WAIT, SUMIRE!
LOOK, OWNER... I'LL DEFINITELY PAY YOU BACK THE INTEREST, SO...
NO, YOU IDIOT.
Buwaahh!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY.
...WITHOUT YOU, I...
COMING BACK TO ME WOULD BE ENOUGH...
......
THE ONE YOU SEND TO PAY ME BACK IS ALWAYS A MESSENGER...
...BUT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU ALL THIS TIME... WITH YOUR FAVORITE... MELON-PAN...*
drip
*A TYPE OF BREAD FOUND IN JAPANESE BAKERIES, SHAPED AND FLAVORED LIKE A MELON.
LOOK, OWNER...
NO!
STOP CALLING ME "OWNER"! CALL ME MITSURU-CHAN!!
AH... WELL... MITSURU-CHAN...?
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU LIKE THIS...BUT I AM ACTUALLY...
HEY... FINALLY CAUGHT UP WITH YOU GUYS!
...EH? WHAT'S HE DOING?

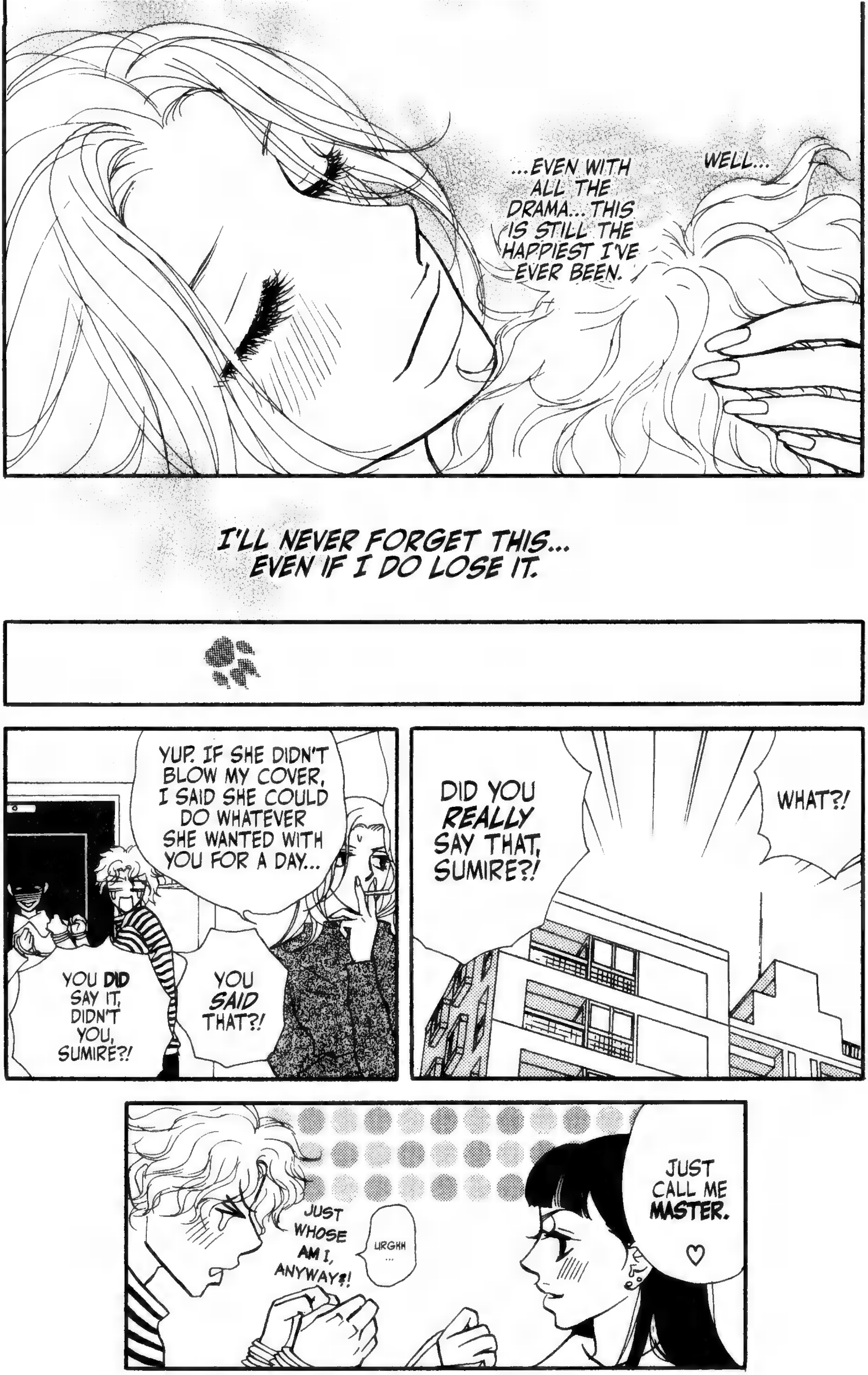
...DATING THIS MAN.
EH?
SHIGEHITO, HONEY. ♡
EH?
EH?!
ブッチュー
BEAUTIFUL...!!

I GIVE UP.
PLEASE, BE HAPPY TOGETHER.
OWNER ...
COME ON, SENPAI...
... BREATHE... BREATHE!
THE THREE MONTHS WE SHARED...
...WERE MAGICAL. I'LL NEVER FORGET THEM.
NEW SINGLE

ZZZ
......
ZZZ
COMING BACK TO ME WOULD BE ENOUGH...
...WITH-OUT YOU, I...
BEFORE HE CAME HERE...
...HE REALLY DID LIVE ALL OVER THE PLACE, DIDN'T HE?
IS HE GOING TO LEAVE ME SOMEDAY, TOO...?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SUMIRE?
AH... NOTHING.

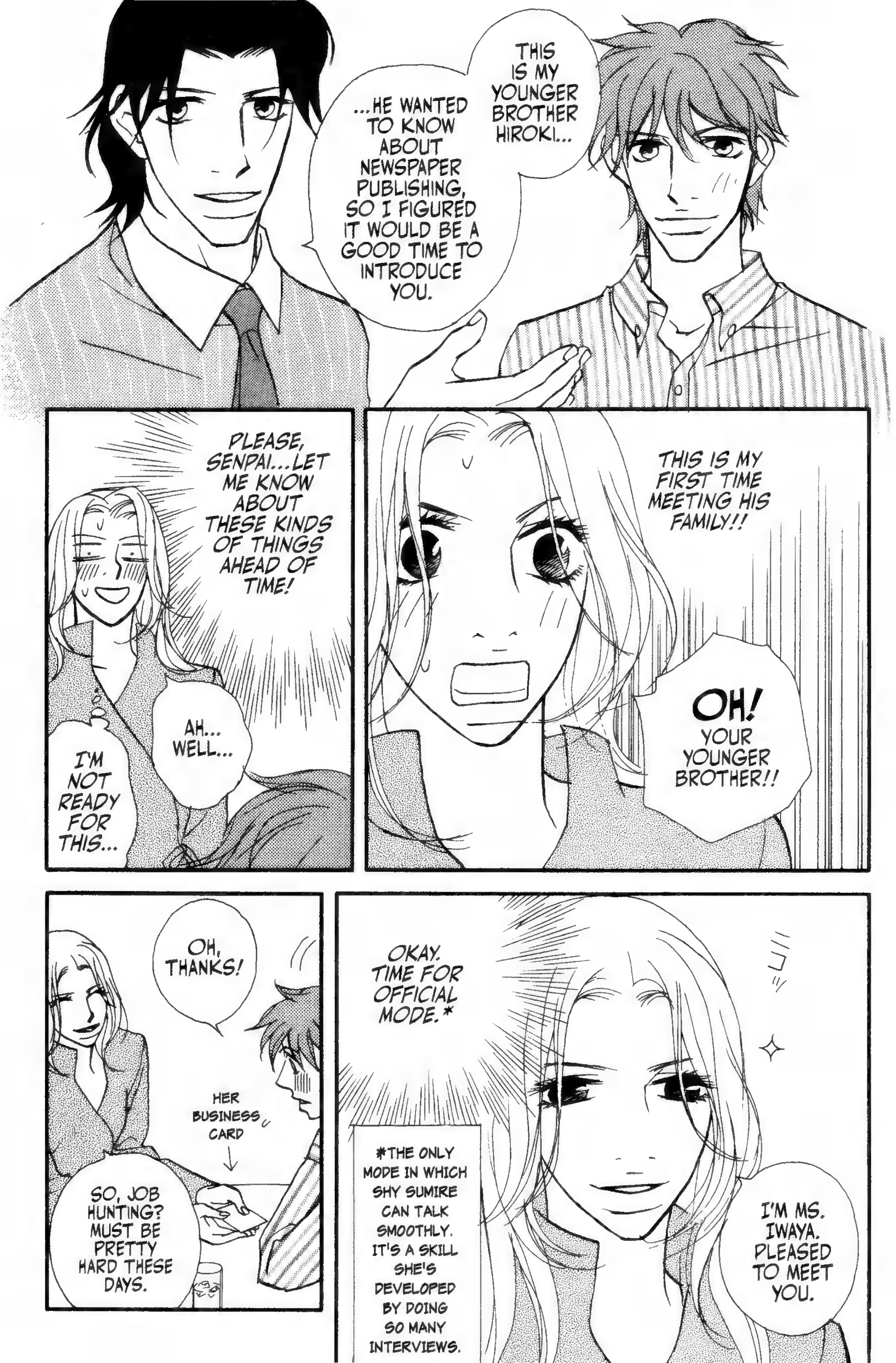
REALLY? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO CRY.
EH?
くるっ
NO! IT'S NOTHING!
...SUMIRE.
...WHAT?
SU-MI-RE-CHAN...!
......

SUMIRE.
WHAT?!
I LIKE YOU SO MUCH!


WELL...
...EVEN WITH ALL THE DRAMA... THIS IS STILL THE HAPPIEST I'VE EVER BEEN.
I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS... EVEN IF I DO LOSE IT.
WHAT?!
DID YOU REALLY SAY THAT, SUMIRE?!
YUP. IF SHE DIDN'T BLOW MY COVER, I SAID SHE COULD DO WHATEVER SHE WANTED WITH YOU FOR A DAY...
YOU SAID THAT?!
YOU DID SAY IT, DIDN'T YOU, SUMIRE?!
JUST CALL ME MASTER. ♡
URGHH...
JUST WHOSE AM I, ANYWAY?!

Rule24
PROPER BEHAVIOR

I LOVE YOU... JUST AS YOU ARE.
HEY, MS. IWAYA. OVER HERE.
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT HERE SO SUDDENLY.
IT'S FINE. I WAS ABOUT TO GO TO LUNCH ANYWAY.


THIS IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER HIROKI...
...HE WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING, SO I FIGURED IT WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO INTRODUCE YOU.
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME MEETING HIS FAMILY!!
OH! YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER!!
PLEASE, SENPAI...LET ME KNOW ABOUT THESE KINDS OF THINGS AHEAD OF TIME!
AH... WELL...
I'M NOT READY FOR THIS...
OKAY. TIME FOR OFFICIAL MODE.*
I'M MS. IWAYA. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
*THE ONLY MODE IN WHICH SHY SUMIRE CAN TALK SMOOTHLY. IT'S A SKILL SHE'S DEVELOPED BY DOING SO MANY INTERVIEWS.
HER BUSINESS CARD
OH, THANKS!
SO, JOB HUNTING? MUST BE PRETTY HARD THESE DAYS.

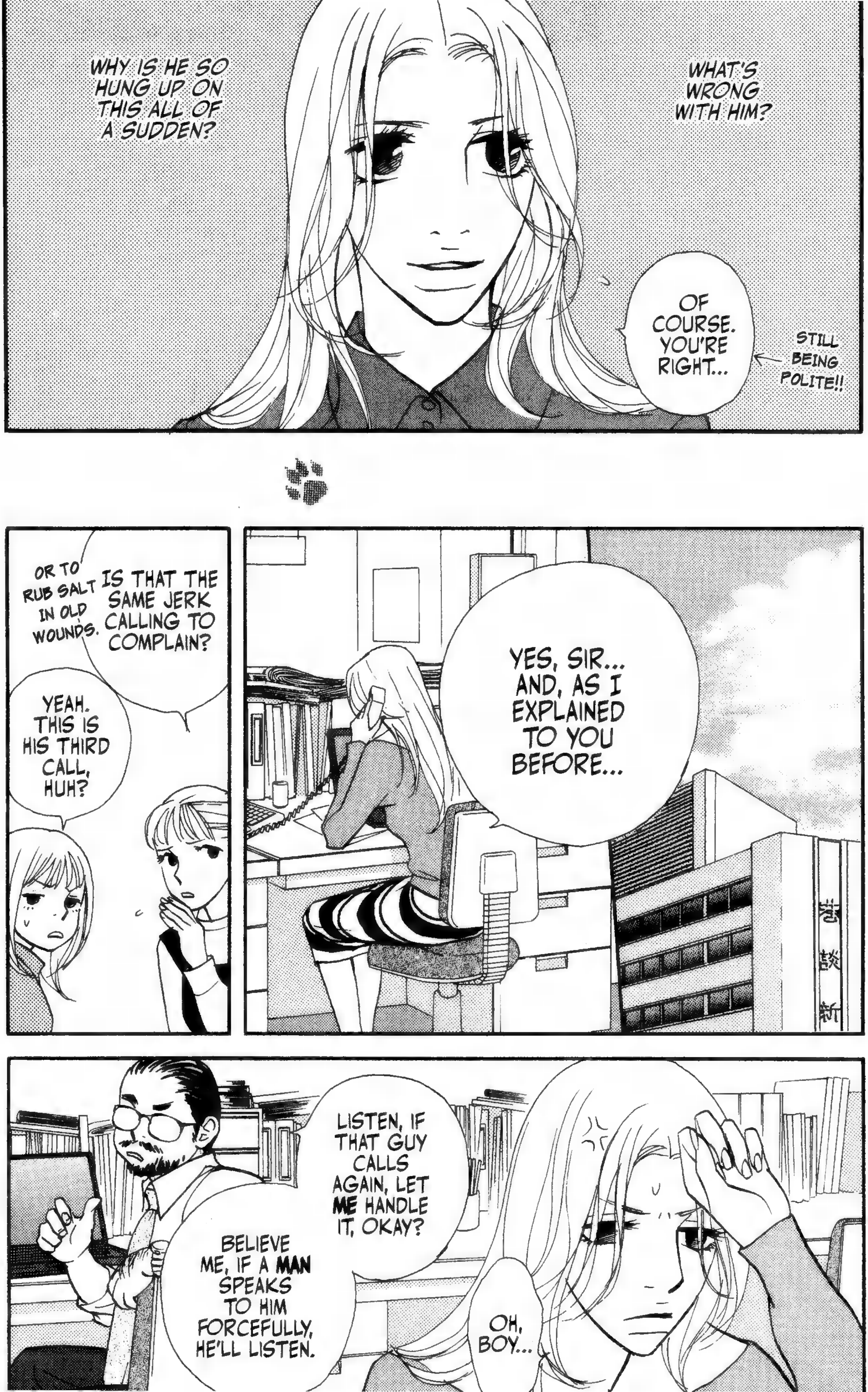
WELL...I WRITE NOVELS AS A HOBBY, AND I'M SORT OF...
...GATHERING MATERIALS.
I KNEW YOU ONLY WENT TO THAT GRAD SCHOOL TO HANG OUT.
AW, C'MON. THAT'S NOT NICE.
GIGGLE
UH-HUH. GIMME THE MENU.
HASUMI-SENPAI ACTS LIKE A PROPER BIG BROTHER.
...IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE THAT... RIGHT?
WOW. YEAH, I SEE. THAT COULD HAPPEN.
AH...I HAVE TO GO NOW.
GOT AN INTERVIEW, SO...!
WELL, I JUST GOT OUT OF MY SHIFT, SO I'M GOING HOME.
ALL RIGHT. HAVE A GOOD DAY...
...SORRY TO LEAVE SO ABRUPTLY!
カッ
カッ
カッ
コトッ

WOO! WITH WOMEN LIKE THAT--MAYBE I *WILL* JOIN THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS! ♡
*SWITCHING SEATS
DON'T SAY "WOMEN LIKE THAT."
ARE YOU OKAY, MISS?
WELL, THAT RELIEVED THE TENSION.
WOW--THAT GIRL WAS SO COOL.
UH, YEAH... FINE.
...COME AGAIN?
I SAID, THAT WAS--
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO **YELL.**
I'M NOT DEAF, Y'KNOW.
HEY--YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR **GIRLFRIEND** TODAY, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THAT WAS HER.
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL? DID YOU JUST START DATING?
NO... IT'S BEEN ALMOST A YEAR.
YOU STILL TALK TO EACH OTHER LIKE THAT AFTER A **YEAR?!**

BUT IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN YOU GUYS ARE ALONE, RIGHT?
OH, SURE. IT'S DIFFERENT... A LITTLE.
YOU STILL ADDRESS EACH OTHER BY FAMILY NAME?!
DO WE...?
HMM... MS. IWAYA.
HASUMI-SENPAI. ♡
YEAH, SHE **DOES** SORT OF SAY IT LIKE THAT!
THOUGH NOT WITH THE HEART AT THE END.
SEE? YOU GUYS ARE STILL STANDING ON CEREMONY!
YOU THINK?
I KINDA LIKE IT, THOUGH... YOU KNOW... "SENPAI."
HEH.
YEAH, IT DOES KIND OF REMIND ONE OF THOSE BITTERSWEET DAYS OF STEALING KISSES BEHIND THE HIGH SCHOOL GYM.
PRICK.
BUT... DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU NERVOUS THAT YOUR **GIRLFRIEND...**
...STILL TALKS TO YOU SO **FORMALLY?**

NOT REALLY...
WELL, I GUESS IT'S OKAY, THEN. YOU ALWAYS LOOK HAPPY, SO...
I CAN RESPECT OUR DIFFERENCES.
YEAH...I REALIZE IT'S KINDA LATE FOR THIS, BUT...
...I WAS WONDERING IF WE COULD MAYBE CALL EACH OTHER...
...SOMETHING MORE FAMILIAR, YOU KNOW?
ER...
...NICKNAMES?

LIKE... WHAT?
WELL... BY FIRST NAME.
YOU KNOW...
LET ME SEE...
...YOU MEAN... SHIGEHITO-SAN?
WHAT WAS THAT PAUSE?
"LET ME SEE"?!
DID SHE FORGET MY NAME?!
WELL, THEN...WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH YOURS...?
I MEAN, IT'S NOT COOL TO JUST CALL SOMEONE DIRECTLY BY THEIR--
OH, THAT'S OKAY. I DON'T MIND.
JUST IWAYA IS FINE.
EH... AH...
NOT... SUMIRE?
WELL... YOU KNOW...
...WE CAN STOP BEING FORMAL NOW, DON'T YOU THINK?
AH...



WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
WHY IS HE SO HUNG UP ON THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
OF COURSE. YOU'RE RIGHT...
STILL BEING POLITE!!
YES, SIR... AND, AS I EXPLAINED TO YOU BEFORE...
IS THAT THE SAME JERK CALLING TO COMPLAIN?
OR TO RUB SALT IN OLD WOUNDS.
YEAH. THIS IS HIS THIRD CALL, HUH?
LISTEN, IF THAT GUY CALLS AGAIN, LET **ME** HANDLE IT, OKAY?
BELIEVE ME, IF A **MAN** SPEAKS TO HIM FORCEFULLY, HE'LL LISTEN.
OH, BOY...

NO THANKS.
IT'S ABOUT MY ARTICLE. I CAN TAKE CARE OF IT ON MY OWN.
OH, COME ON. DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
I AM NOT PUSHING MYSELF TOO HARD.
snap!
THAT ATTITUDE IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT.
YOU'RE HOPELESS, YOU KNOW THAT?
WAS JUST TOLD THE SAME THING OVER THE PHONE.
schnap!
HMM, HOPELESS... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IS THAT LIKE A MAN WHO PRETENDS HE KNOWS EVERYTHING AROUND THE OFFICE TO MAKE UP FOR THE FACT THAT HIS WIFE HAS JILTED HIM?
んだとコラァ
SAY THAT AGAIN TO MY FACE!!!
OH, BOY.
LET'S STAY OUT OF THIS ONE.

UGH...
...ALL THAT ENERGY WASTED ON NOTHING.
KNEW BETTER THAN THAT
AND THE WORST PART IS I HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT MYSELF.
AH, WELL. TIME TO HURRY HOME AND PLAY VIDEO GAMES WITH MOMO.
ACTUALLY, YOU KNOW WHAT?
I'M GONNA GO BUY SOME OF THAT TASTY RED BEAN SOUP FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE.
cha-
ra- ra-
MS. IWAYA? IT'S ME.
JUST CALLING HER "IWAYA" WASN'T WORKING
I JUST GOT OFF WORK FOR THE DAY...
...WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OVER?

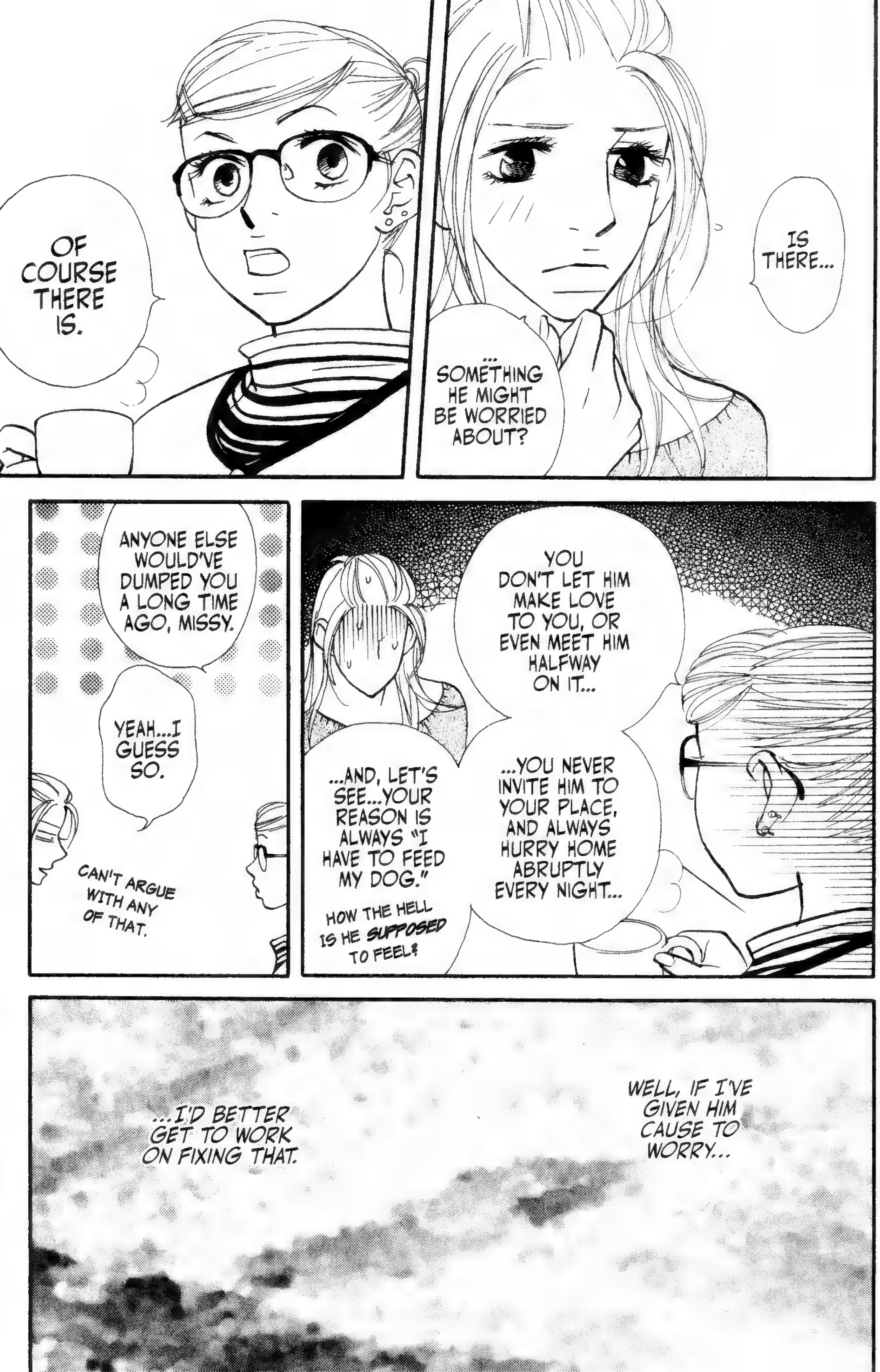
Please choose.
GAME + RED BEAN SOUP AT HOME WITH MOMO
TALKING WITH HASUMI-SENPAI IN UNNATURALLY CASUAL WAY
UH...
...WELL...
OH, BOY...
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT QUITE FINISHED AT WORK...
...GUESS I'LL HAVE TO STAY LATE, SO...
AW... THAT'S TOO BAD.
...I JUST TOLD HIM A LIE.
BUT I AM PRETTY TIRED...
...AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SEE EACH OTHER TOMORROW ANYWAY.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED... RIGHT?

SUCH A NICE GUY, THAT URIYAMA-SAN!

DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU NERVOUS?
HEY...MS. IWAYA? ABOUT YESTERDAY ...
EH?
grab
NEVER MIND.
LET'S GO TO MY PLACE. I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE.

MS. IWAYA...
...HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT ME?
EH...?
HOW CAN YOU ASK ME THAT IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?
I... REALLY... LIKE...
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
SAY IT LOUDER.
!

HE'S ACTING WEIRD AGAIN.
I... REALLY... LIKE YOU...
HE'S NEVER ASKED ME ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE.
WELL... EVERYONE NEEDS REASSURANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...HE'S *NEVER* BROUGHT UP *MY* FEELINGS BEFORE.
YOU MEAN THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HIS PILLOW TALK HAS REQUIRED A RESPONSE FROM YOU?
I GUESS THAT *IS* A BIT UNUSUAL.
A BIT SELF-CENTERED, MAYBE?
IT'S EASIER FOR ME, I GUESS.


IS THERE...
...SOMETHING HE MIGHT BE WORRIED ABOUT?
OF COURSE THERE IS.
YOU DON'T LET HIM MAKE LOVE TO YOU, OR EVEN MEET HIM HALFWAY ON IT...
...YOU NEVER INVITE HIM TO YOUR PLACE, AND ALWAYS HURRY HOME ABRUPTLY EVERY NIGHT...
...AND, LET'S SEE...YOUR REASON IS ALWAYS "I HAVE TO FEED MY DOG."
HOW THE HELL IS HE SUPPOSED TO FEEL?
ANYONE ELSE WOULD'VE DUMPED YOU A LONG TIME AGO, MISSY.
YEAH...I GUESS SO.
CAN'T ARGUE WITH ANY OF THAT.
WELL, IF I'VE GIVEN HIM CAUSE TO WORRY...
...I'D BETTER GET TO WORK ON FIXING THAT.

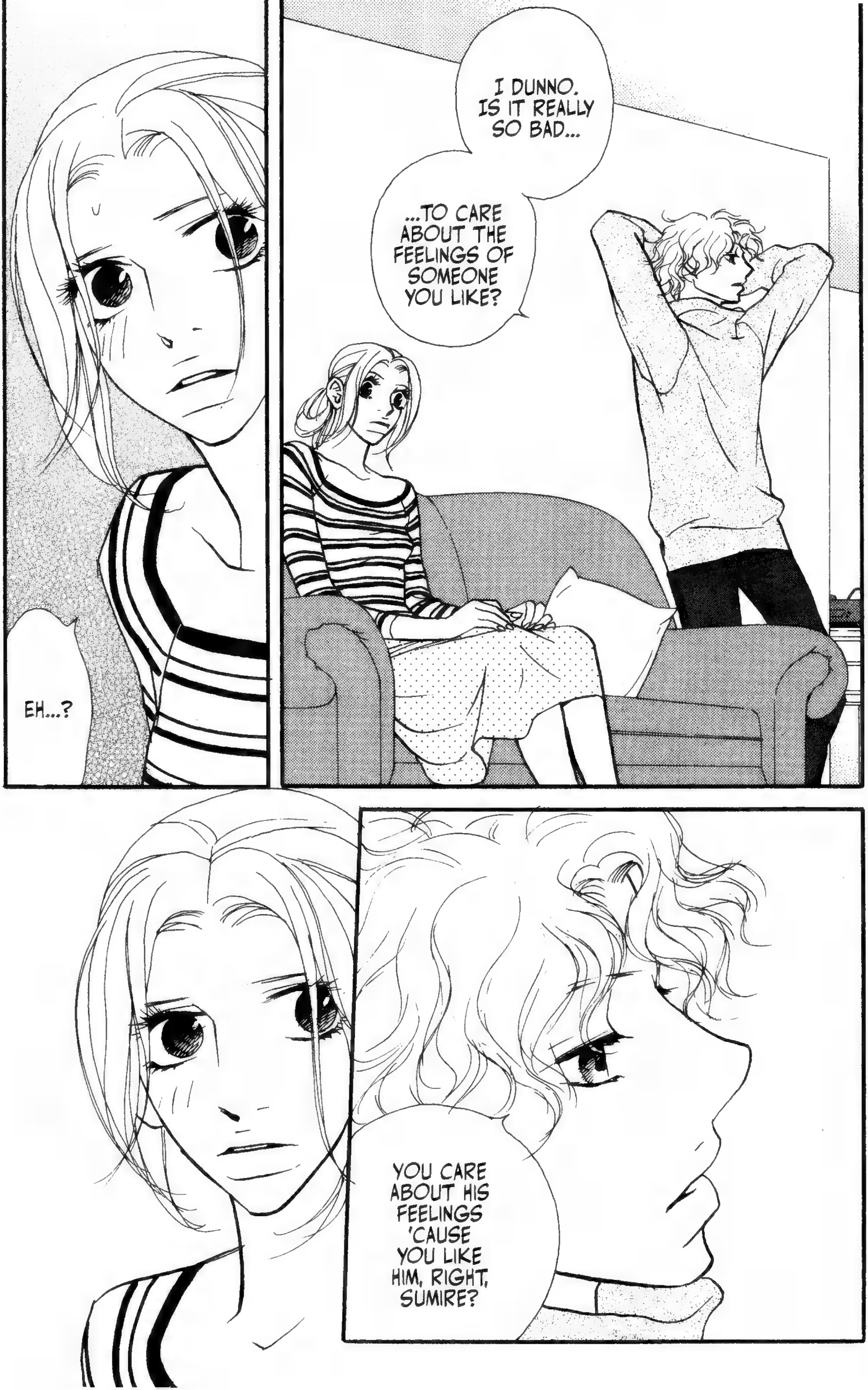
OH YEAH, IT'S THAT MOMO GUY!
SHIGE-HITO-SAN.
PEACH HIP BOY
SHIGE-HITO-SAN.
SHIGE-HITO-SAN?
SHIGE-HITO-SAAAN!
PRACTICING HIS NAME
PRETTY WARM TODAY, ISN'T IT, IWAYA?
PRACTICING THE TALK
YEAH-- "SPRING HAS SPRUNG," EH?
PLAYING DUAL ROLES
AND THAT TIE YOU'RE WEARING-- SUPER-COOL!
HMM... CAN'T BE TOO TACKY THOUGH, OR IT'LL SCARE HIM OFF.
MUTTER MUTTER
WELL, IT'S NICE THAT SHE'S MAKING AN EFFORT...
...BUT IT'S NOT REALLY THE POINT.

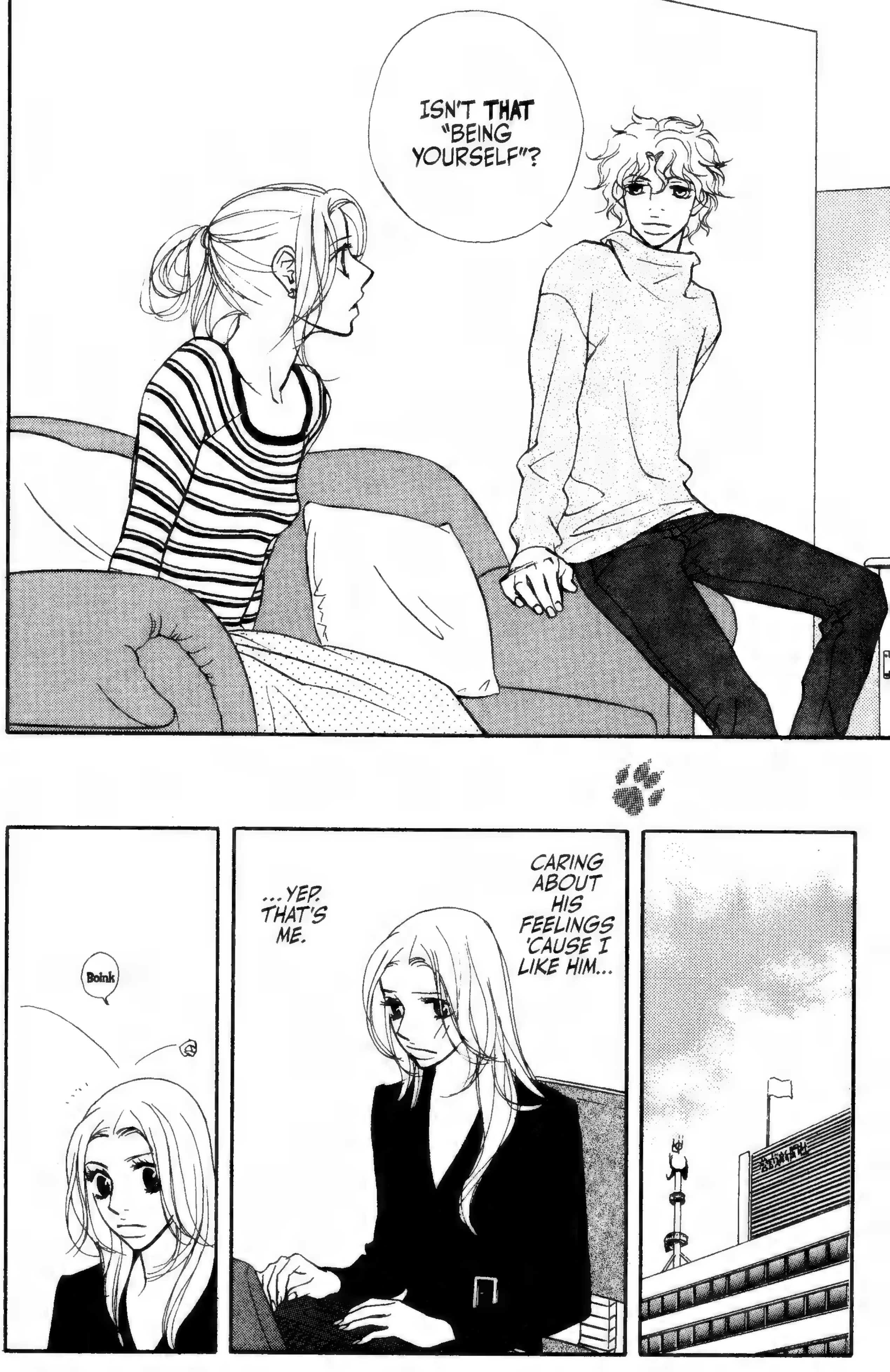
DI-DI-DID YOU WAIT...
...SHI...
...SHI...
...SHIGE-HITO-SAN?
TRYING TO COCK HEAD IN A FAMILIAR FASHION
NO, I JUST CAME.
PRETTY WARM TODAY, ISN'T IT?
YEAH-- "SPRING HAS SPRUNG," EH?
GREAT! EXACTLY HOW I EXPECTED.
てく てく てく
......
てく てく てく
......
OH, NO...
...I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY!
......

MS. IWAYA.
YES?! I MEAN, WHAT?
...DO YOU EVER WORRY ABOUT HOW I'M FEELING WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER?
UM, YEAH!!
WHY, NO... I MEAN, NOPE!
IT'S JUST... YOU LOOK SO TIRED SOMETIMES.
I CAN'T DO THIS MUCH LONGER!
DO I... I MEAN, YEAH? Y'THINK?
I FEEL...
...FINE...

SUMIRE... DON'T.
NOT FOR ME. JUST BE YOURSELF.
I WANT YOU TO FEEL LIKE YOU CAN SHOW ME YOUR TRUE FEELINGS.
MY...
...TRUE FEELINGS.
WHAT EXACTLY...
...WOULD THOSE BE...?

EH...
...THAT'S WHAT ALL MEN SAY.
IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU NEVER SHOW HIM YOUR TRUE FEELINGS.
HE WILL EXPECT YOU TO BE WHAT HE WANTS, TILL THE VERY END.
EH...?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT EXACTLY DOES HE WANT ME TO BE...?
ホッホッホ
TCH. YOU'VE DUG YOUR OWN GRAVE WITH THIS ONE.
AND NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO LIE IN IT.
I'M GOIN' HOME.


I DUNNO. IS IT REALLY SO BAD...
...TO CARE ABOUT THE FEELINGS OF SOMEONE YOU LIKE?
EH...?
YOU CARE ABOUT HIS FEELINGS 'CAUSE YOU LIKE HIM, RIGHT, SUMIRE?



ISN'T THAT "BEING YOURSELF"?
CARING ABOUT HIS FEELINGS 'CAUSE I LIKE HIM...
...YEP. THAT'S ME.
Boink

*A SUFFIX EXPRESSING RESPECT TOWARD ONE'S SUPERIOR

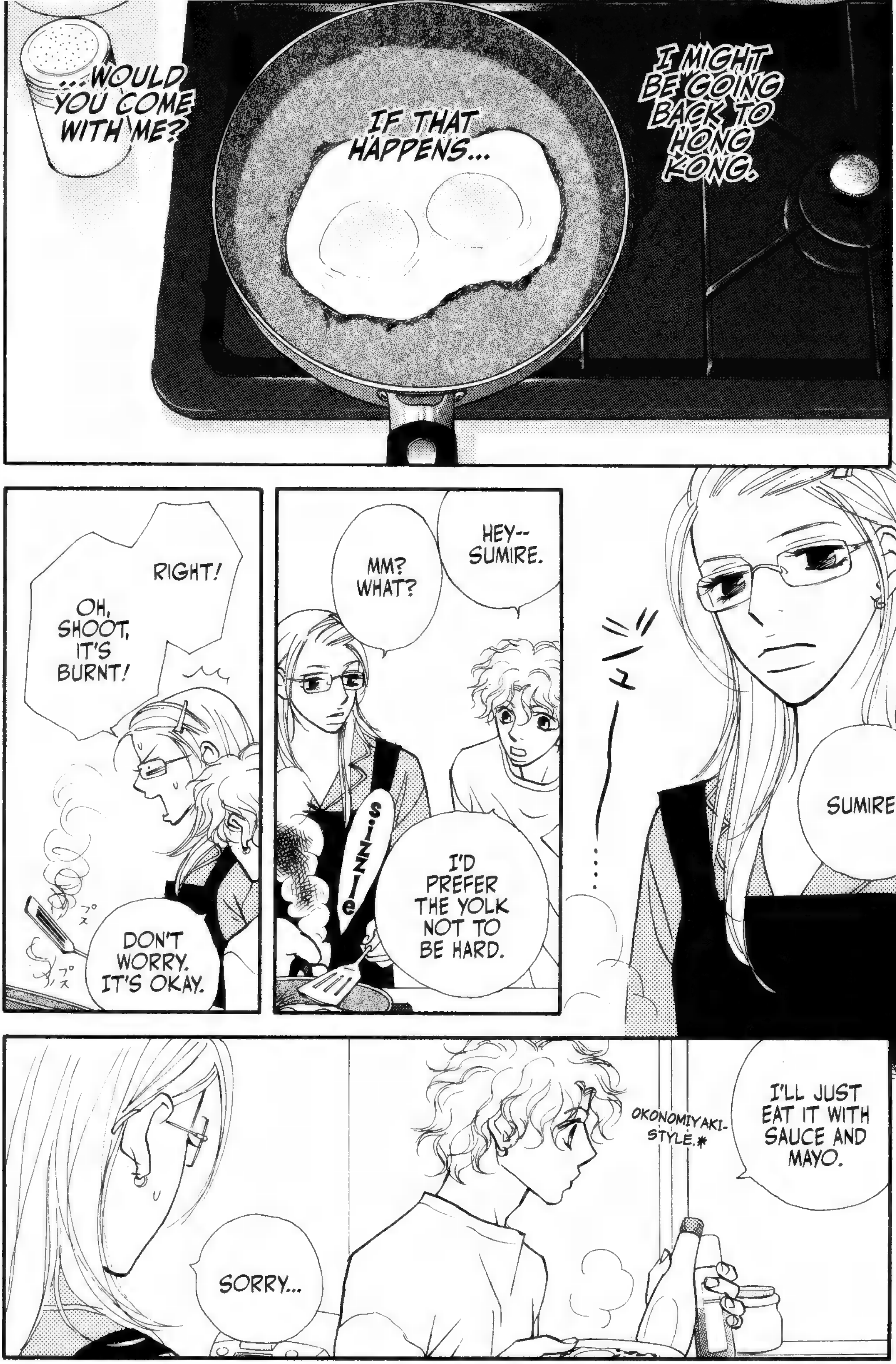
AND BESIDES...
OKAY.
YOU WERE FORCING IT TOO HARD ANYWAY...
...YOUR LIPS WOULD ALWAYS TWITCH.
EH? THEY DID?!
YEAH. I'M AN IDIOT.
I THOUGHT I'D FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT, BUT...
AH... WELL...
BY THE WAY, MY BOSS JUST TOLD ME.
IT'S NOT FINALIZED YET...
...BUT HE SAID THERE MIGHT BE A STAFF RELOCATION SOON.

"IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME."
"YOU REALLY ARE LONELY, HUH?"
"THAT'S RIGHT. ONLY I KNOW THAT."
"BECAUSE I LOVE YOU JUST AS YOU ARE."
I MIGHT BE GOING BACK TO HONG KONG.
EH...?
IF THAT HAPPENS...

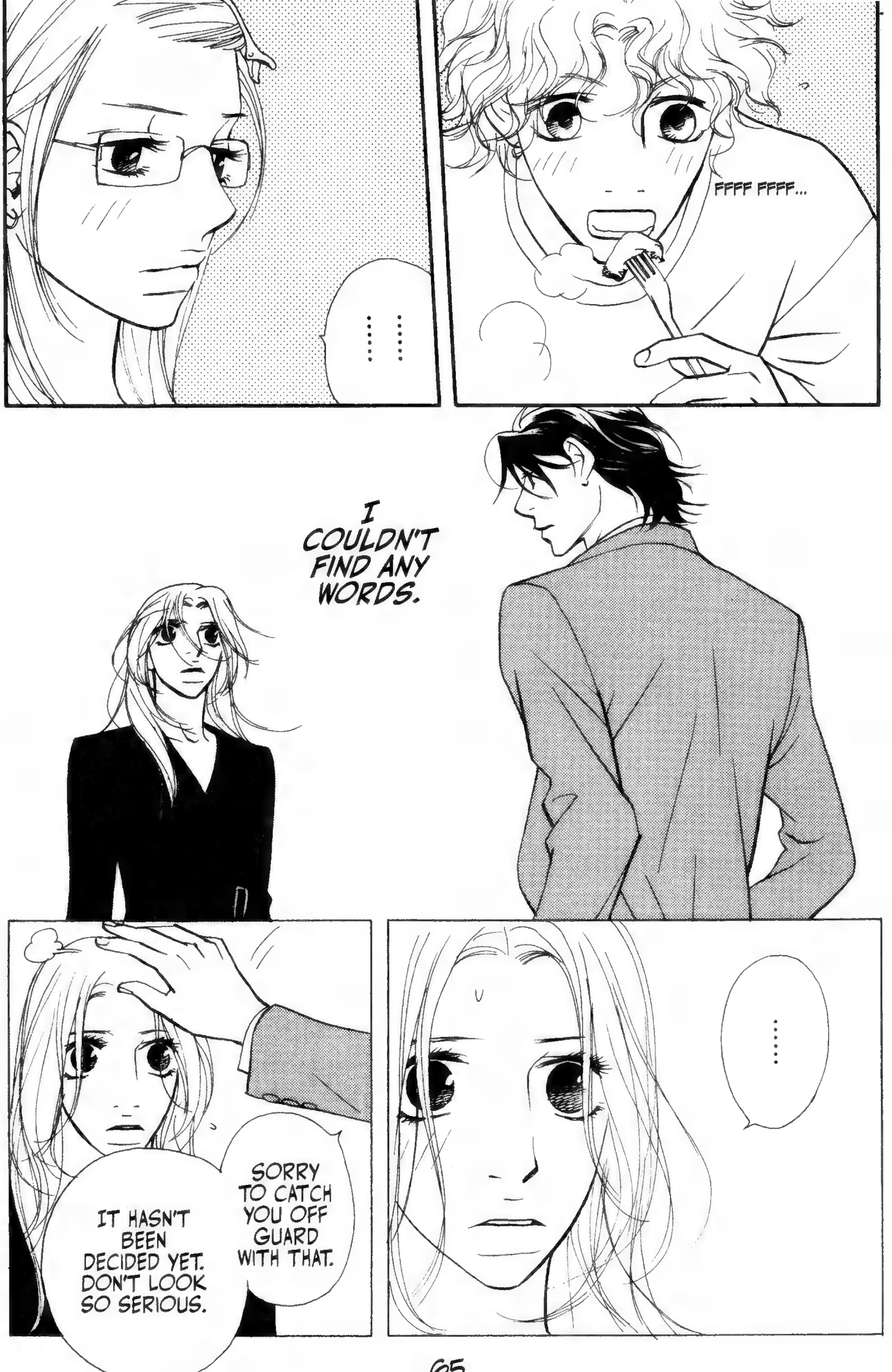
...WOULD YOU COME...
...WITH ME?
AND THEN THE MAN WOULD SAY...
..."SO CAN I DOMINATE YOU?"

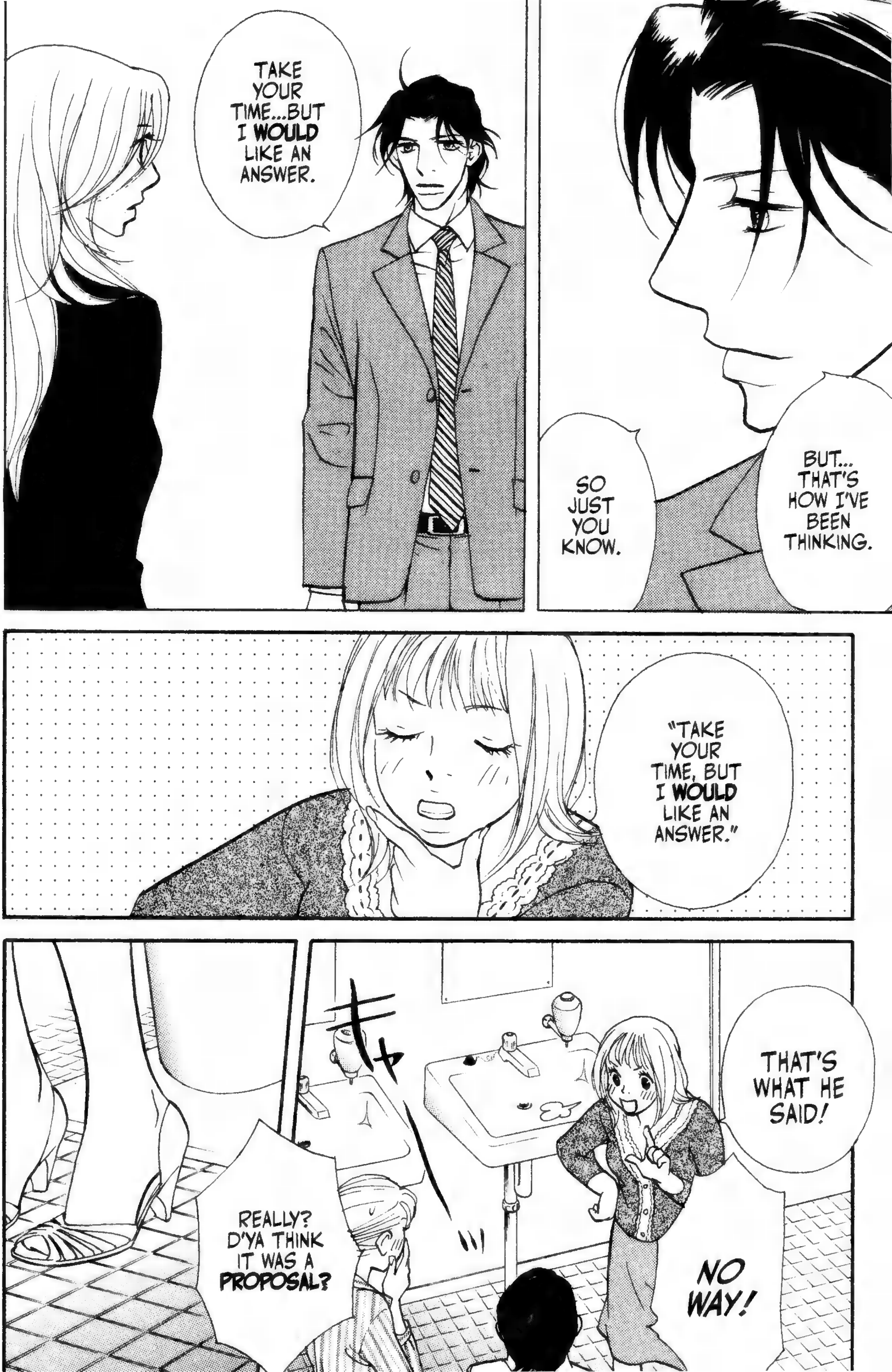
Rule25

WHAT YOU WANT VS. WHAT YOU NEED

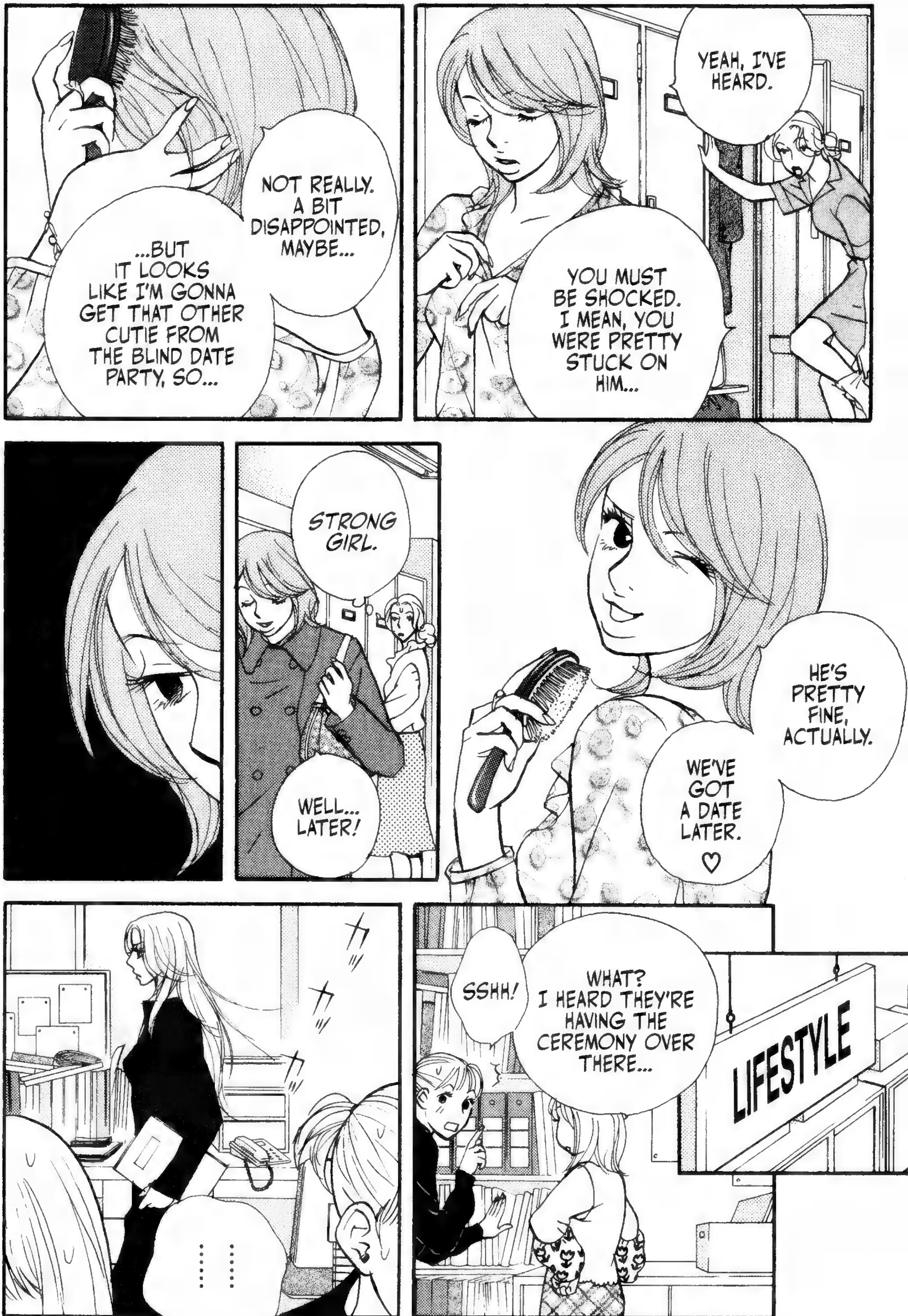


*OKONOMIYAKI IS A JAPANESE PANCAKE MADE WITH CABBAGE, FLOUR, WATER AND EGG, USUALLY EATEN WITH SAUCE AND MAYO ON TOP.


FFFF FFFF...
......
I COULDN'T FIND ANY WORDS.
......
SORRY TO CATCH YOU OFF GUARD WITH THAT.
IT HASN'T BEEN DECIDED YET. DON'T LOOK SO SERIOUS.

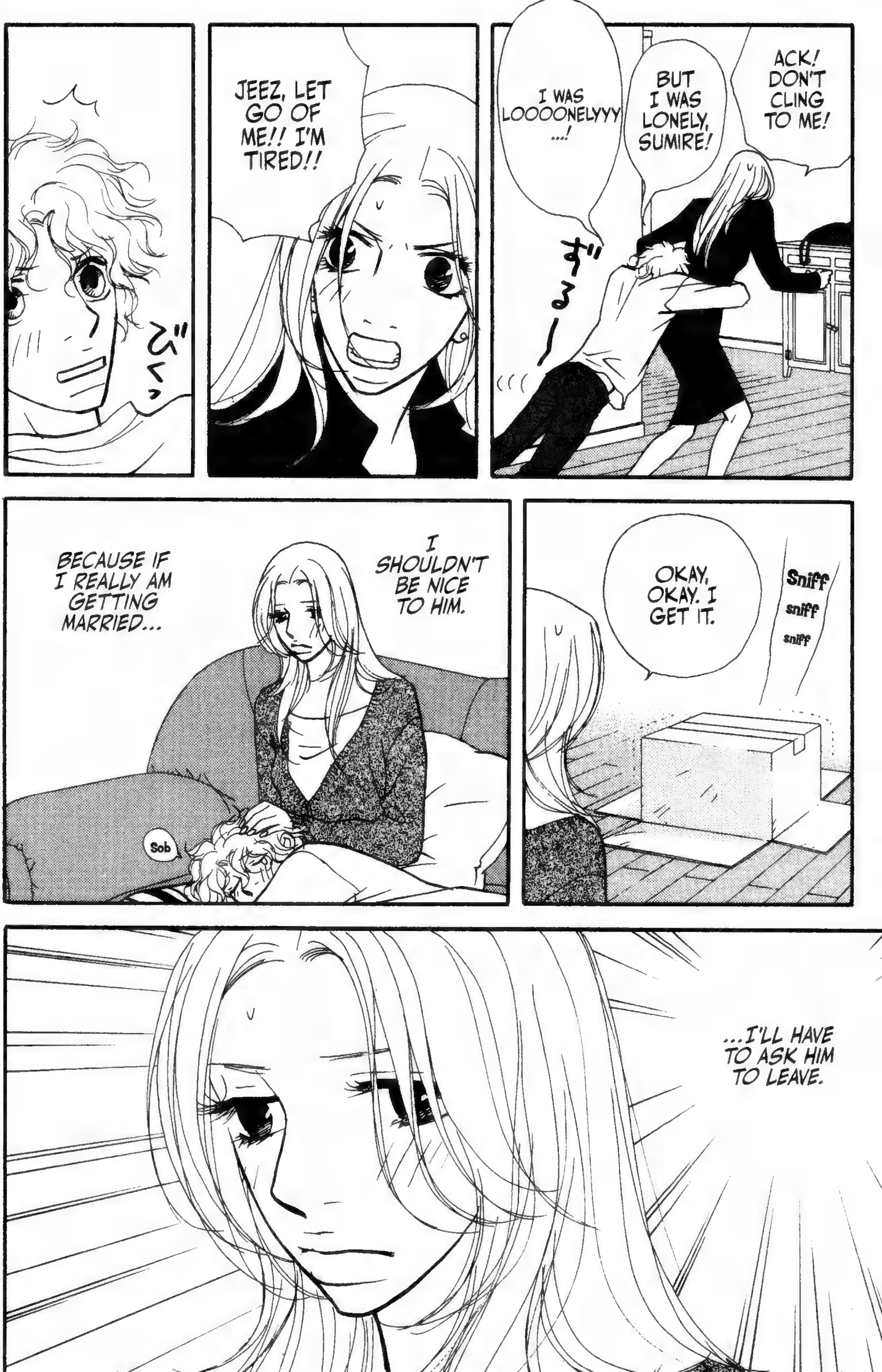

BUT... THAT'S HOW I'VE BEEN THINKING.
SO JUST YOU KNOW.
TAKE YOUR TIME...BUT I **WOULD** LIKE AN ANSWER.
"TAKE YOUR TIME, BUT I **WOULD** LIKE AN ANSWER."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID!
NO WAY!
キャ
REALLY? D'YA THINK IT WAS A **PROPOSAL?**

GREAT. NOW EVERYONE KNOWS!
NAH, COULDN'T BE. PROBABLY JUST ANOTHER RUMOR.
YEAH. YOU WOULDN'T WANNA SAY SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING AT WORK.
RIGHT!
HASUMI WOULDN'T DO SUCH A CARELESS THING.
...MA-CHAN?
NO, IT'S TRUE! YOSSHI FROM HUMAN RESOURCES SAW THE WHOLE THING!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE DID.
CARELESS INDEED.
HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD?
HASUMI-SAN IS GOING TO HONG KONG...
...WITH MS. IWAYA!
THE WEDDING'S GOING TO BE IN JUNE!
SHE'S ALREADY PREGNANT, THEY SAY!
OH, THAT RUMOR?



YEAH, I'VE HEARD.
YOU MUST BE SHOCKED. I MEAN, YOU WERE PRETTY STUCK ON HIM...
NOT REALLY. A BIT DISAPPOINTED, MAYBE...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA GET THAT OTHER CUTIE FROM THE BLIND DATE PARTY, SO...
HE'S PRETTY FINE, ACTUALLY.
WE'VE GOT A DATE LATER. ♡
STRONG GIRL.
WELL... LATER!
LIFESTYLE
WHAT? I HEARD THEY'RE HAVING THE CEREMONY OVER THERE...
SSHH!
......

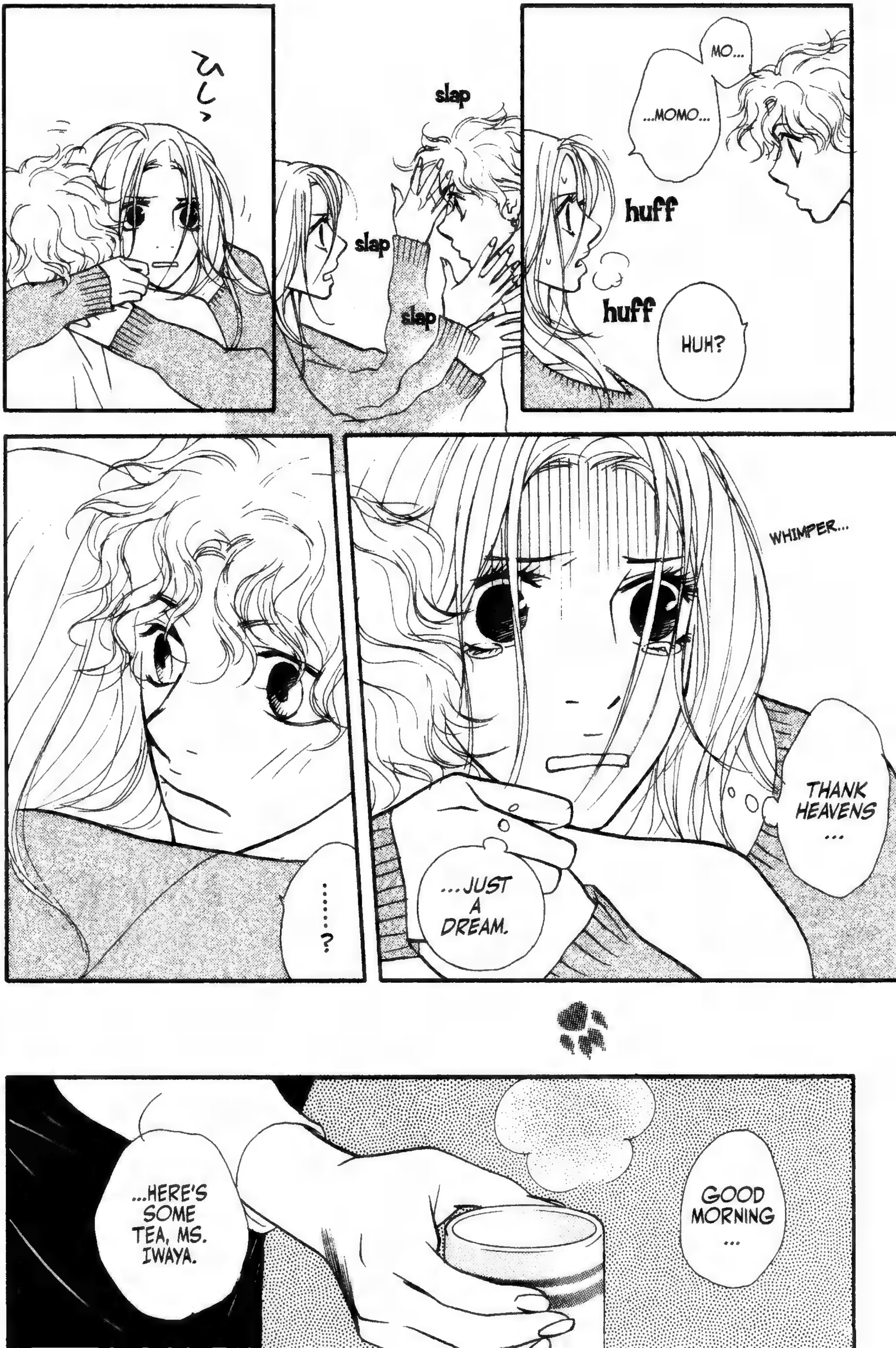
SENPAI WANTS TO...
...GET MARRIED, RELOCATE TO HONG KONG, AND TAKE ME WITH HIM.
THAT'S ALL.
BUT I WOULD LIKE AN ANSWER.
THERE'S THIS BIG RUMOR ALL OVER THE OFFICE NOW.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK PREGNANT.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
LAST NAME...
...CAREER...
WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?
...MOMO.
WELCOME BACK!!


ACK! DON'T CLING TO ME!
BUT I WAS LONELY, SUMIRE!
I WAS LOOOONELYYY ...!
ずるー
JEEZ, LET GO OF ME!! I'M TIRED!!
びくっ
OKAY, OKAY. I GET IT.
Sniff sniff sniff
I SHOULDN'T BE NICE TO HIM.
BECAUSE IF I REALLY AM GETTING MARRIED...
Sob
...I'LL HAVE TO ASK HIM TO LEAVE.

WHY ARE YOU ALL THE WAY OVER THERE? THE TV'S IN HERE.
NO REASON ...
AH, MASAO!!
CLEAN MY EARS...?
DO IT YOURSELF.
THEY'RE NOT DRY YET.
COTTON SWABS
WAIT! BEFORE YOU LEAVE...
NO KISS. JUST GO.
DON'T BE NICE...
...DON'T BE NICE.
HUH...
...WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

THE EXPENSIVE PICKLED PLUM SHE WAS EATING LITTLE BY LITTLE FINALLY GOT EATEN, AND SHE GOT MAD AT ME OVER IT.
AND THEN SHE WALKED IN ON THE MORNING WOOD...
ACK!
"PERHAPS A FERRET WOULD MAKE A BETTER PET," SHE INTONED MENACINGLY.
WELL, MOMO...
...I GUESS THE DAY TO USE THIS CARDBOARD BOX HAS FINALLY COME.
YOU'LL BE OKAY. THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE AROUND.
AND YOU'VE GOT THREE DAYS' WORTH OF FOOD.
skrk!
HERE... I'LL EVEN GIVE YOU A RIBBON, SO YOU'LL LOOK GOOD.
I HOPE SOMEONE REALLY NICE TAKES YOU IN.
OH, NO! SUMIRE!
Please take me home
CAN'T... BREATHE...
...CAN'T... MOVE...
SUMIRE...
huff
huff

DON'T LOOK BACK.
HURRY.
AS SOON AS YOU TURN THAT CORNER, SENPAI WILL BE RIGHT THERE WAITING FOR YOU.
SUMIRE...
SENPAI... WILL BE...
SUMIRE?
YOU OKAY?
huff
huff

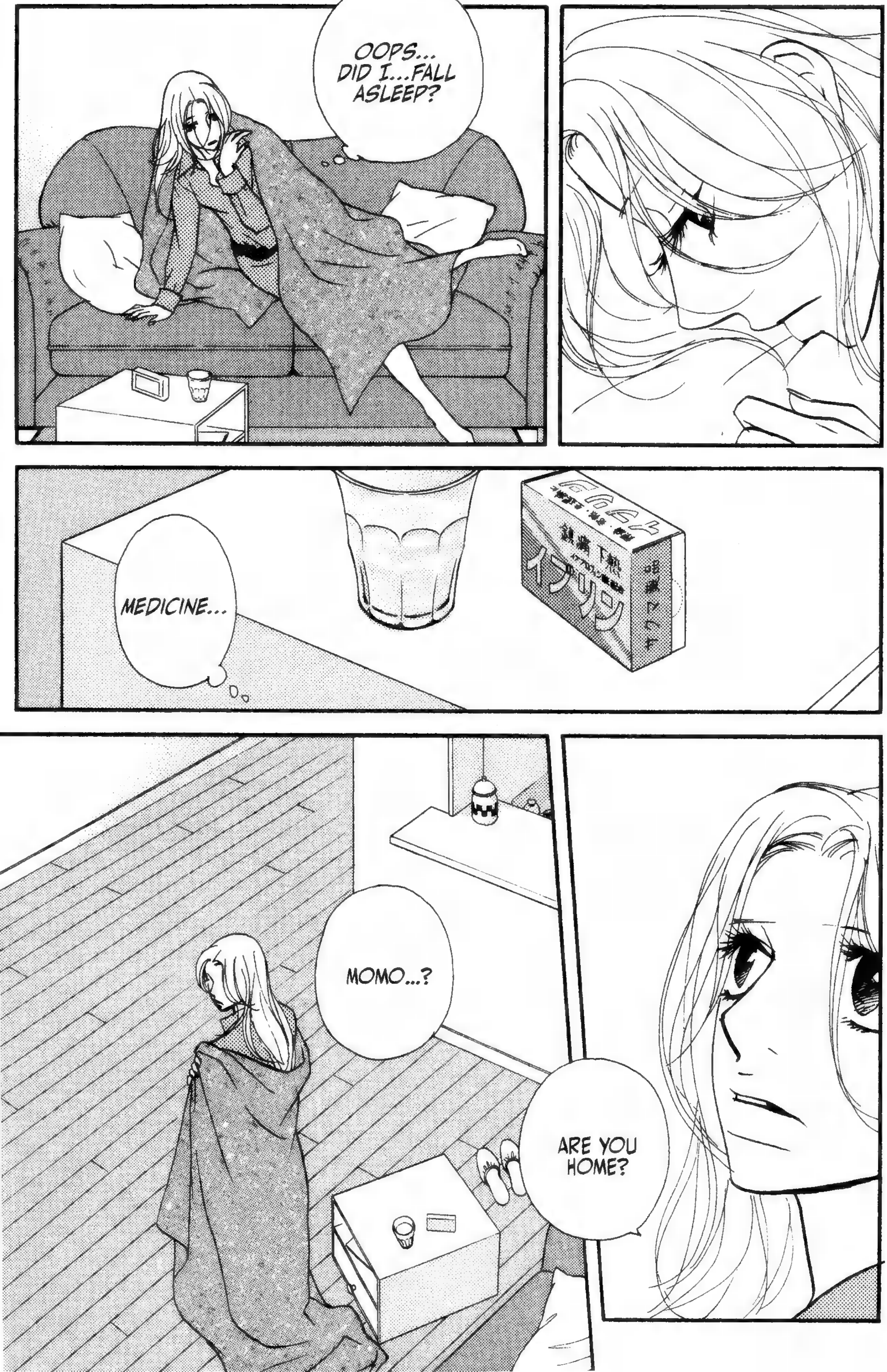

MO...
...MOMO...
huff
huff
HUH?
slap
slap
slap
ひしっ
WHIMPER...
THANK HEAVENS ...
...JUST A DREAM.
......?
GOOD MORNING ...
...HERE'S SOME TEA, MS. IWAYA.

げっそり
EH... AH...
NO PROB-LEM.
...THANKS.
MS. IWAYA'S BEEN TERRIBLY WORN OUT LATELY, HASN'T SHE?
SHE LOOKS LIKE A MONSTER.
IS THIS WHAT WE CALL THE WEDDING BELL BLUES?
MS. IWAYA, CAN I BORROW YOUR RULER?
SURE, GO AHEAD.
!
twinge
SHOOT... IT'S ALREADY THE 28TH!
IT NEVER RAINS, BUT IT POURS.

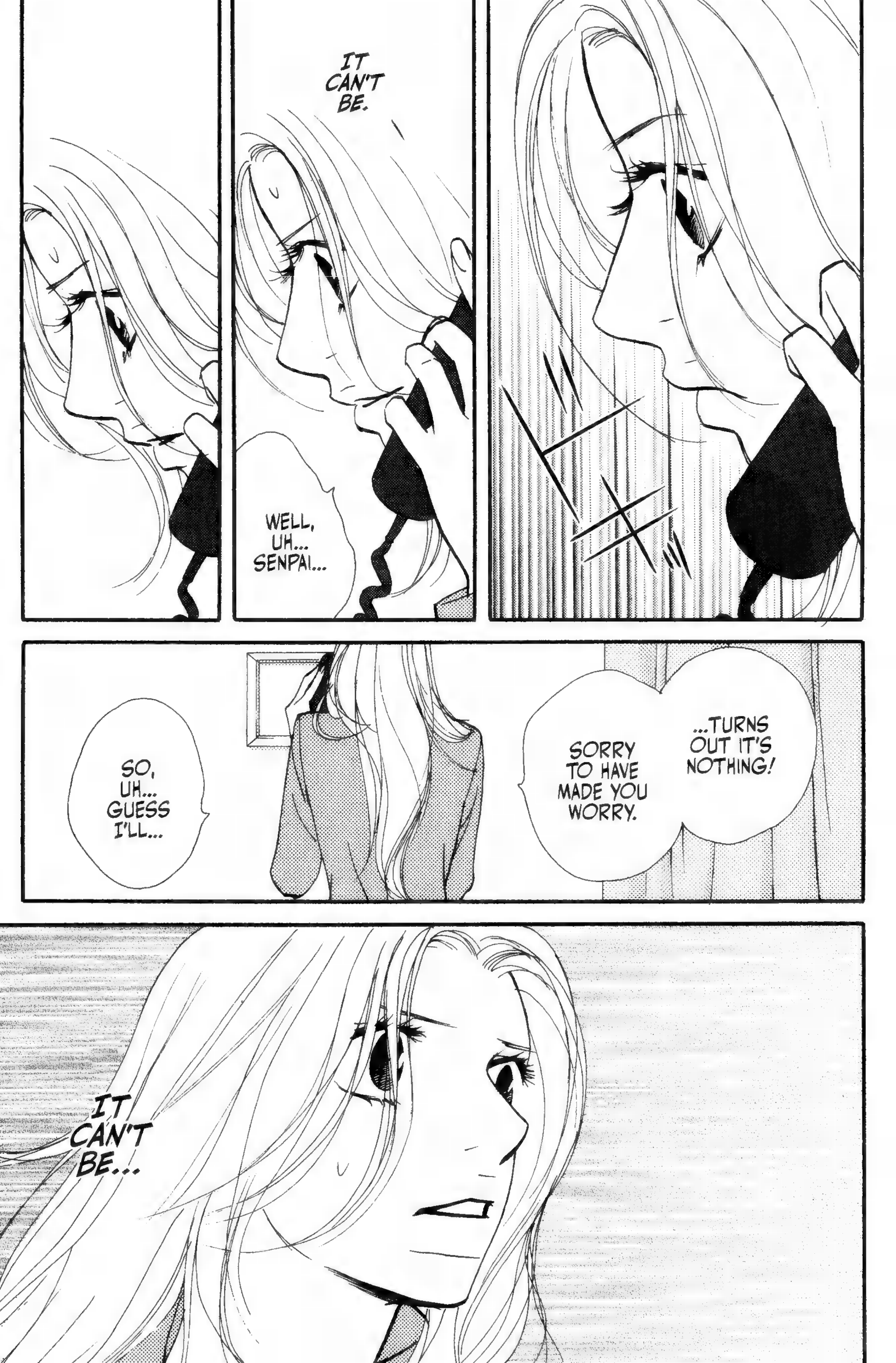
I'M HOME...
WHAT'S WRONG, SUMIRE?!
STOMACH... HURTS...
...RAN OUT OF... PAINKILLERS...
DAMMIT! IT HURTS!!
I'LL GO GET SOME MEDICINE!
YOU SURE...?
MAKE SURE IT SAYS IBUPROFEN, OKAY?
YOU GOT IT.
Slam
HUMM...
IF I GOT MARRIED...
...I'D ASK SENPAI TO DO THOSE THINGS.

DRUGSTORE
マツミオ
I SEE...
...SO THAT'S WHY SHE'S BEEN ACTING SO STRANGE.
TAKESHI-KUN?
OH!
HASUMI-KUN.
ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO SUMIRE'S PLACE?
YEAH, I HAPPENED TO BE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IS SHE IN?
SHE IS... BUT I THINK YOU'D BETTER NOT GO TODAY.
SHE'S PRETTY IRRITABLE. HER TIME OF THE MONTH, YOU KNOW.
OH...IS THAT SO?
......
HAS SOMETHING... HAPPENED WITH SUMIRE?

EH...?
BADUM
WELL...I GUESS IT'S MORE LIKE... SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED.
AH...
...I PROPOSED TO HER.
ASKED HER TO COME TO HONG KONG WITH ME.


OOPS... DID I...FALL ASLEEP?
MEDICINE...
MOMO...?
ARE YOU HOME?

...WHERE WOULD HE HAVE GONE SO LATE AT NIGHT?
HE'S NOT HERE...
RRR...
...MOMO?
MOMO...
BADUM
SENPAI...
I WAS JUST IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD...
...DIDN'T STOP BY, THOUGH, SINCE I HEARD YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL.
HELLO?
AH...MS. IWAYA. ARE YOU OKAY?
REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW...
WELL, I HAPPENED TO RUN INTO TAKESHI-KUN, SO...


IT CAN'T BE.
WELL, UH... SENPAI...
...TURNS OUT IT'S NOTHING!
SORRY TO HAVE MADE YOU WORRY.
SO, UH... GUESS I'LL...
IT CAN'T BE...

LEFT HIS CELL PHONE...
...BUT HIS JACKET AND BAG ARE GONE.
DID HASUMI-SENPAI TELL MOMO...
...THAT HE'D PROPOSED?
AND THEN... DID MOMO RUN AWAY?!
MOMO!!
thump
thump
thump
huff
huff

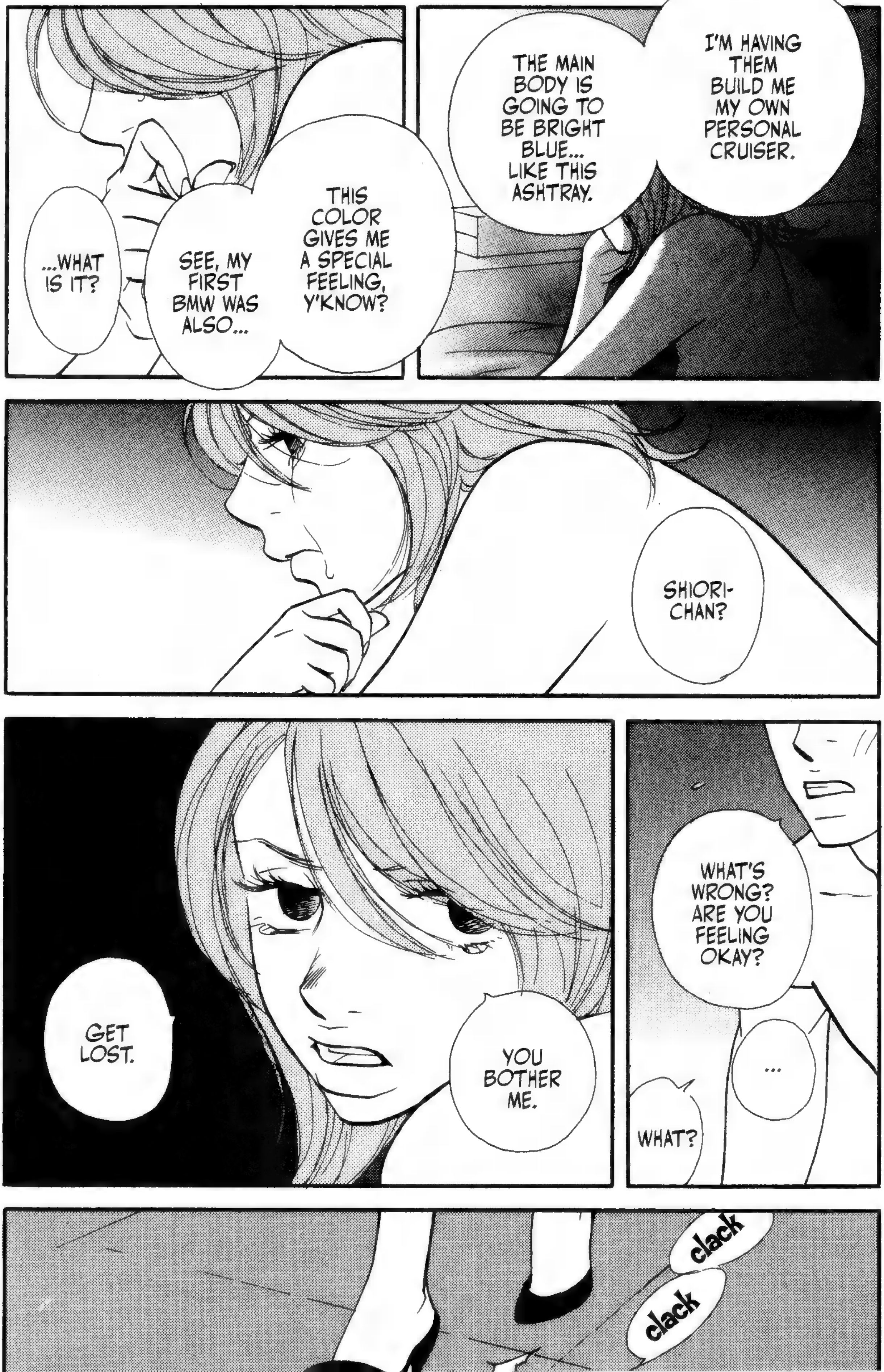
huff
huff
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE, SUMIRE?
YOU'RE NOT WEARING ANY SHOES.

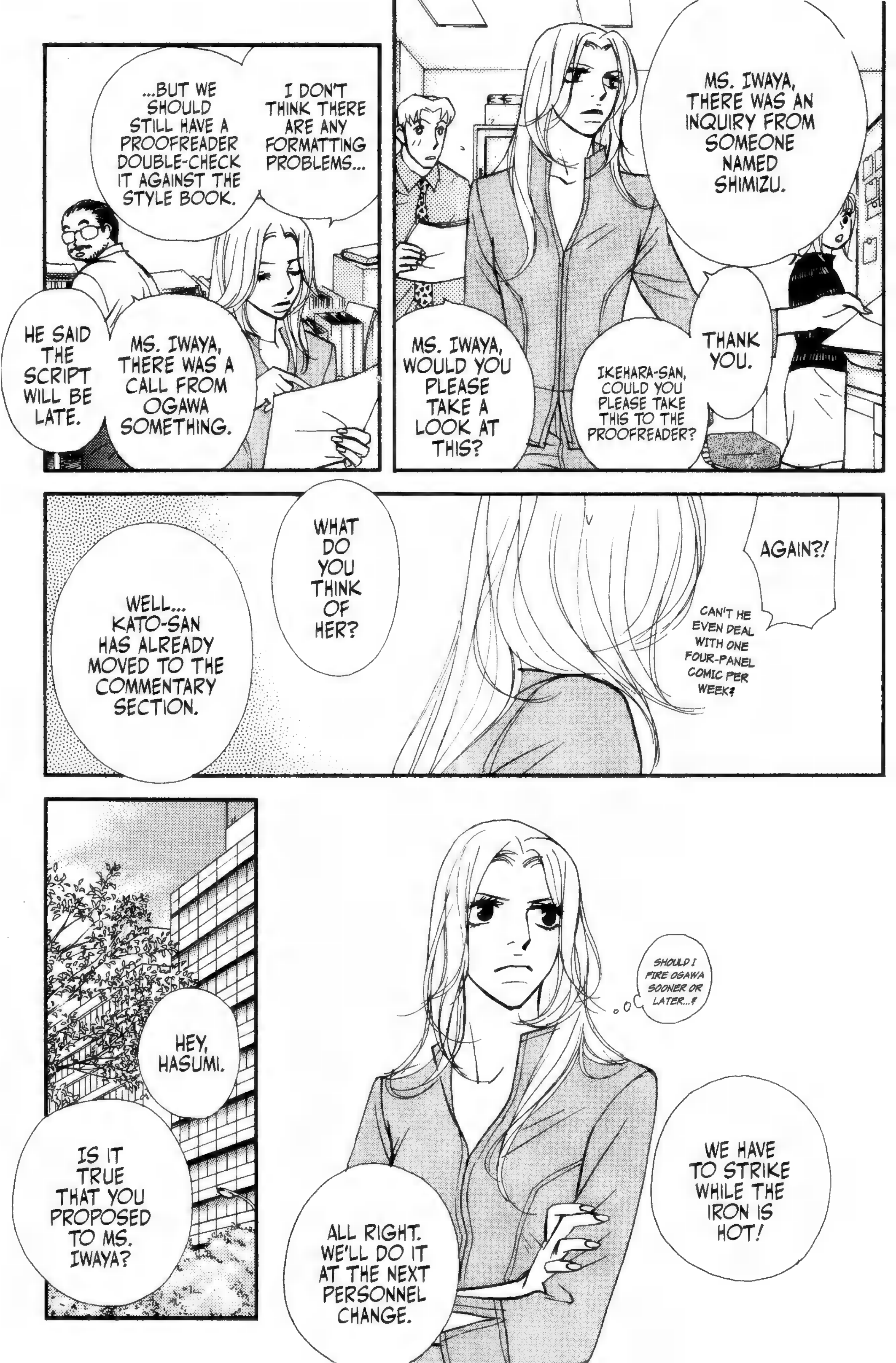
EH?!
UP WE GO--OOF!
IT'S OKAY... LET ME DOWN!
YOU'LL CATCH A CHILL.
NOW, HANG ON TIGHT... YOU'RE HEAVY.
HEAVY...!
A SENSITIVE POINT FOR HER
WHERE WERE YOU, ANYWAY?
THE STUDIO.
GOT AN IDEA FOR A NEW DANCE, SO I HAD TO GET OUT THERE AND MOVE.
THE WARMTH OF HIS BODY.
I WAS WORRIED.
HUH? WHY?
HIS COMFORTING SMELL...
I JUST... THOUGHT YOU HAD LEFT.

...AND GENTLE WORDS THAT SOOTHE MY FRAZZLED MIND.
HEH HEH
WELL, JUST SO YOU KNOW...
...I'LL STAY WITH YOU TILL YOU TELL ME TO LEAVE.
I CAN'T GIVE THEM UP.
I NEED THEM ALL.

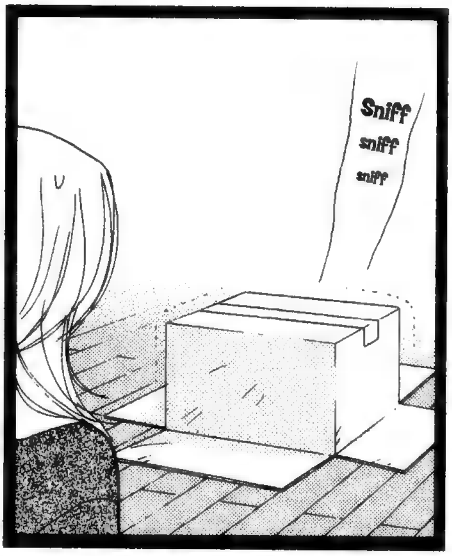
I'M NOT GOING ...
...TO HONG KONG.
HOTEL ポレポ
RES
STA
...DON'T YOU WANNA GO IN?
WELL... I JUST...
WHY NOT? I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE HOME.
...I HAVE TO GO HOME EARLY TONIGHT.
DAMN. I WON'T GIVE MYSELF UP THAT EASILY.
I'LL KEEP HIM FOR AT LEAST TWO MORE DATES, BUT...
WELL, I'M HEADING BACK TO THE OFFICE, SO...
OKAY

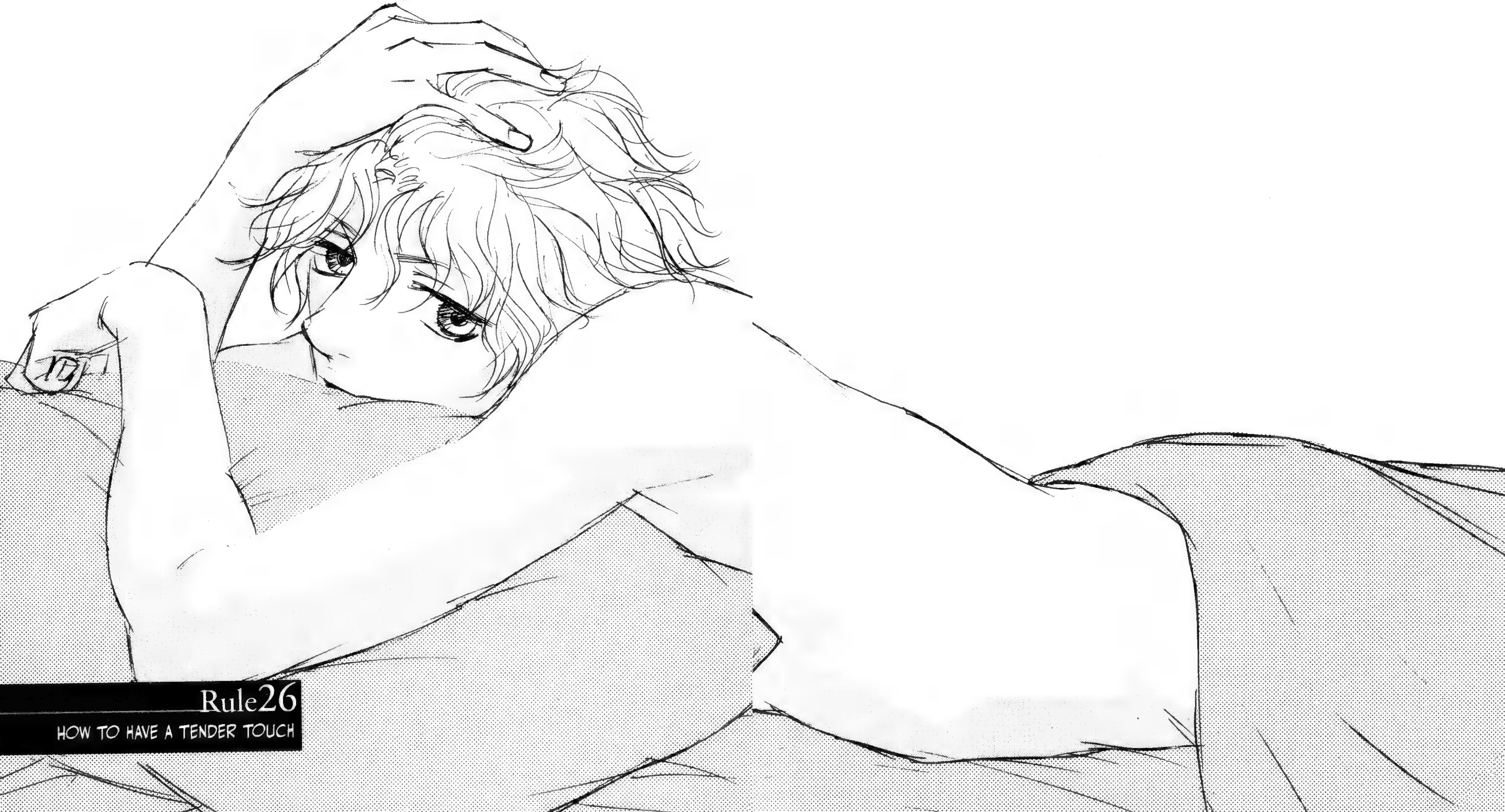
HUH?
tug
入口→
WHAT'S UP?
SO SHE'S GOT A NEW BOY-FRIEND NOW.
NOTHING.
AH...
AND MY VILLA IN CHIBA...
...HAS A MARINA RIGHT IN FRONT OF IT.


I'M HAVING THEM BUILD ME MY OWN PERSONAL CRUISER.
THE MAIN BODY IS GOING TO BE BRIGHT BLUE... LIKE THIS ASHTRAY.
THIS COLOR GIVES ME A SPECIAL FEELING, Y'KNOW?
SEE, MY FIRST BMW WAS ALSO...
...WHAT IS IT?
SHIORI-CHAN?
WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
...
WHAT?
YOU BOTHER ME.
GET LOST.
clack
clack


MS. IWAYA, THERE WAS AN INQUIRY FROM SOMEONE NAMED SHIMIZU.
THANK YOU.
IKEHARA-SAN, COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE THIS TO THE PROOFREADER?
MS. IWAYA, WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS?
I DON'T THINK THERE ARE ANY FORMATTING PROBLEMS...
...BUT WE SHOULD STILL HAVE A PROOFREADER DOUBLE-CHECK IT AGAINST THE STYLE BOOK.
MS. IWAYA, THERE WAS A CALL FROM OGAWA SOMETHING.
HE SAID THE SCRIPT WILL BE LATE.
AGAIN?!
CAN'T HE EVEN DEAL WITH ONE FOUR-PANEL COMIC PER WEEK?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HER?
WELL... KATO-SAN HAS ALREADY MOVED TO THE COMMENTARY SECTION.
SHOULD I FIRE OGAWA SOONER OR LATER...?
WE HAVE TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT!
ALL RIGHT. WE'LL DO IT AT THE NEXT PERSONNEL CHANGE.
HEY, HASUMI.
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU PROPOSED TO MS. IWAYA?

EH?
BUT I MADE IT SOUND AS IF I WERE TRYING TO RUSH A DECISION.
IT'S TRUE... I WAS USING THE HONG KONG THING TO FEEL OUT OUR SITUATION.
IF THERE WERE ONE GUY WHO COULD TELL THAT SUPER CAREER WOMAN TO QUIT HER JOB AND MOVE...
I DON'T REALLY WANT HER TO QUIT HER JOB.
WAS I JUST TESTING HER?
MAYBE I WAS...
I HAVE TO TELL HIM.


Sniff
sniff
sniff



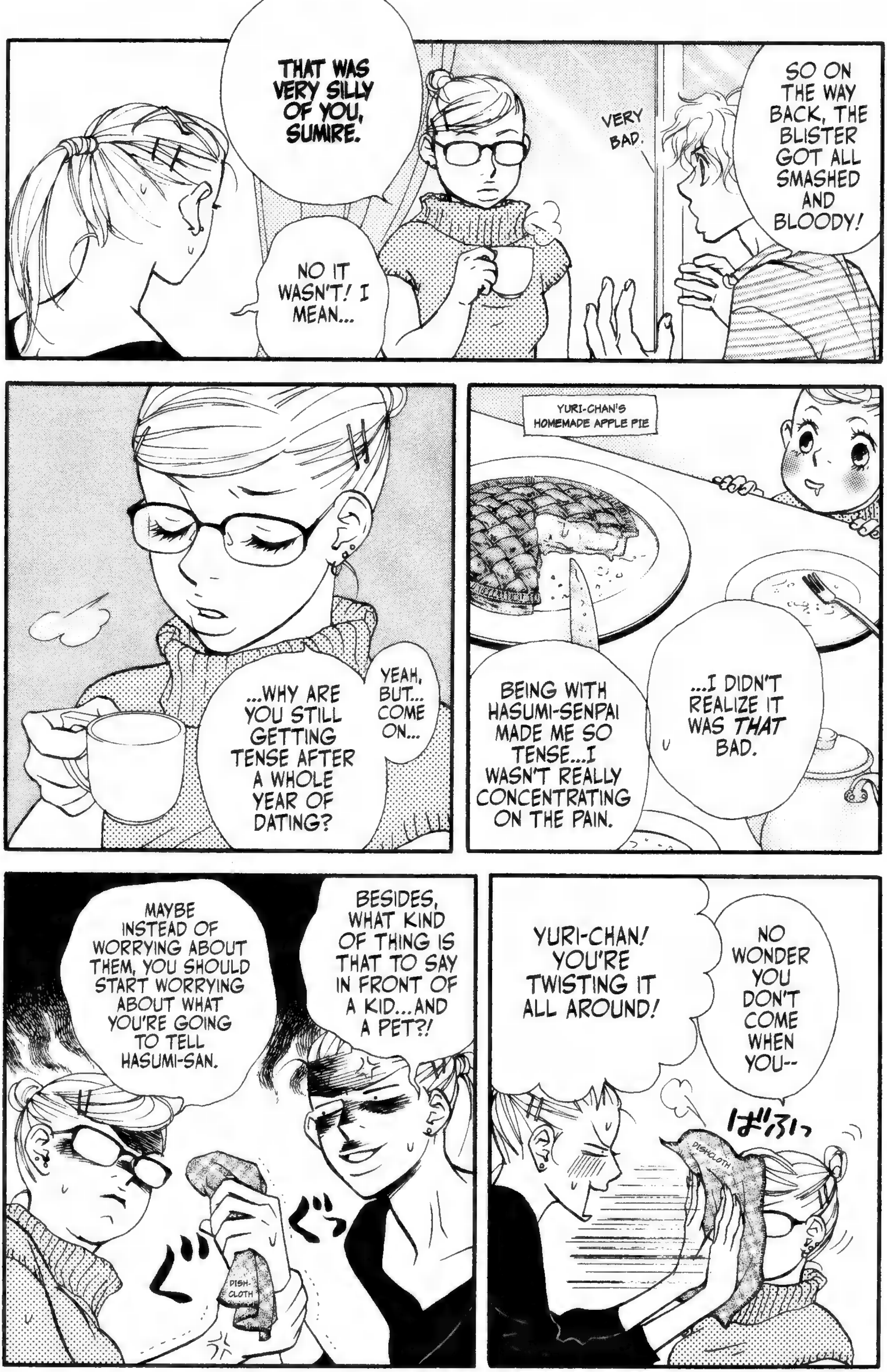
Rule26

HOW TO HAVE A TENDER TOUCH

I'VE BEEN SURROUNDED BY GIRLS SINCE I WAS A KID.
AND SINCE BEING **DISLIKED** BY GIRLS WOULD HAVE MEANT BEING LONELY...
...I LEARNED PRETTY QUICKLY HOW TO MAKE THEM LIKE ME.
OH...
...THEY'RE GONE.
WAS IT ALL A DREAM?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
DROPPED THEM WHEN SHE WAS CARRYING LAUNDRY

NEVER MIND. I DON'T THINK I WANT TO KNOW.
WELL... IT WAS IN FIRST PERSON. AND...
WHAT KIND OF WILD FANCY?!!!
I WAS DECIDING WHICH WOULD BE BETTER...
...TO PICK THEM UP AND DELIVER THEM, OR TO JUST GO AND TELL...
...AND I GOT LOST IN A WILD FANCY...
EH...?
OH...A PEDICURE?
LET ME DO IT, LET ME DO IT!
ALL RIGHT. BUT YURI-CHAN WILL BE HERE SOON, SO DON'T MAKE A MESS!
ROGER!

HM?
HM?
YOUR BLISTERS FROM THE OTHER DAY ARE GETTING MUCH BETTER.
OH...
...RIGHT.
LET ME EXPLAIN. ON HER LAST DATE WITH HASUMI-KUN...
NICE WEATHER WE'RE HAVING.
...SUMIRE, WHO WAS WEARING NEW SHOES, GOT A BLISTER!
UGH... MY FEET HURT.
*ILLUSTRATED BY MOMO
SHEESH, GIVE THEM SOME CLOTHES...
HOWEVER, SUMIRE WAS A DEVOTED GIRLFRIEND, SO SHE KEPT ON WALKING.
WE'RE NOT FAR ENOUGH TO TAKE THE SUBWAY... LET'S WALK, HUH?
OH... YES.
Throb throb


SO ON THE WAY BACK, THE BLISTER GOT ALL SMASHED AND BLOODY!
VERY BAD.
THAT WAS VERY SILLY OF YOU, SUMIRE.
NO IT WASN'T! I MEAN...
YURI-CHAN'S HOMEMADE APPLE PIE
...I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS THAT BAD.
BEING WITH HASUMI-SENPAI MADE ME SO TENSE...I WASN'T REALLY CONCENTRATING ON THE PAIN.
YEAH, BUT... COME ON...
...WHY ARE YOU STILL GETTING TENSE AFTER A WHOLE YEAR OF DATING?
NO WONDER YOU DON'T COME WHEN YOU--
YURI-CHAN! YOU'RE TWISTING IT ALL AROUND!
ばふっ
DISHCLOTH
BESIDES, WHAT KIND OF THING IS THAT TO SAY IN FRONT OF A KID...AND A PET?!
MAYBE INSTEAD OF WORRYING ABOUT THEM, YOU SHOULD START WORRYING ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL HASUMI-SAN.
ぐっ
DISH-CLOTH

YOU *ARE* GOING TO TELL HIM, RIGHT?
THAT YOU'RE NOT READY TO GET MARRIED?
A RELATIONSHIP ISN'T A BLISTER. IT'S NOT GONNA HEAL IF YOU COVER IT UP.
MINO
ODERN DANCE
STUDIO
EH...? SOMEONE FROM THE BEGINNING CLASS?
YUP. THE ONE WHO WORKS AT A STOCK BROKERAGE FIRM DURING THE DAY.
THEY SAY SHE'S IN *LOVE* WITH YOU.

HEY, YOU...
PFFT...YOU. I BET GIRLS COME ON TO YOU EVERY TIME YOU WALK DOWN THE STREET.
WHAT? THAT'S CRAZY TALK.
'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT SHE TOLD ME TO CALL HER.
HMM... MAYBE IT'S MINA-CHAN?
HUH?!
WHY'RE YOU CALLING HER BY HER FIRST NAME ALREADY? AND WITH "CHAN"?!
THE CLASS ONLY STARTED A MONTH AGO!
TOLD YOU.
IS THIS FOR REAL?
THE CURLY-HAIRED ONE.
GOT A MOMENT?
Cafe & Bar
Scotch
YOU'RE PRETTY QUIET.
YOU *ARE* GOUDA-KUN... RIGHT?

LOOK...
...I KNOW IT'S KINDA LATE TO BE TELLING YOU THIS...
...BUT I'VE ONLY GOT ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE TRAIN RIDE HOME.
THAT'S OKAY... I'VE GOT IT.
UNBELIEVABLE...
IN THAT CASE... CHAMPAGNE AND CAVIAR, IF YOU PLEASE.
WHICH BRAND?
DOM PERIGNON.
MENU
UH, YEAH, CANCEL THAT. TWO COFFEES, PLEASE.
YOU GOT A DEATH WISH, KIDDO?
AW... BUT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT!
LOOK, I'M GONNA BE FRANK.
ARE YOU OR AREN'T YOU...THAT WOMAN'S *PET?*
YUP! THAT'S ME.
THAT'S IT? NO HESITATION AT ALL?!

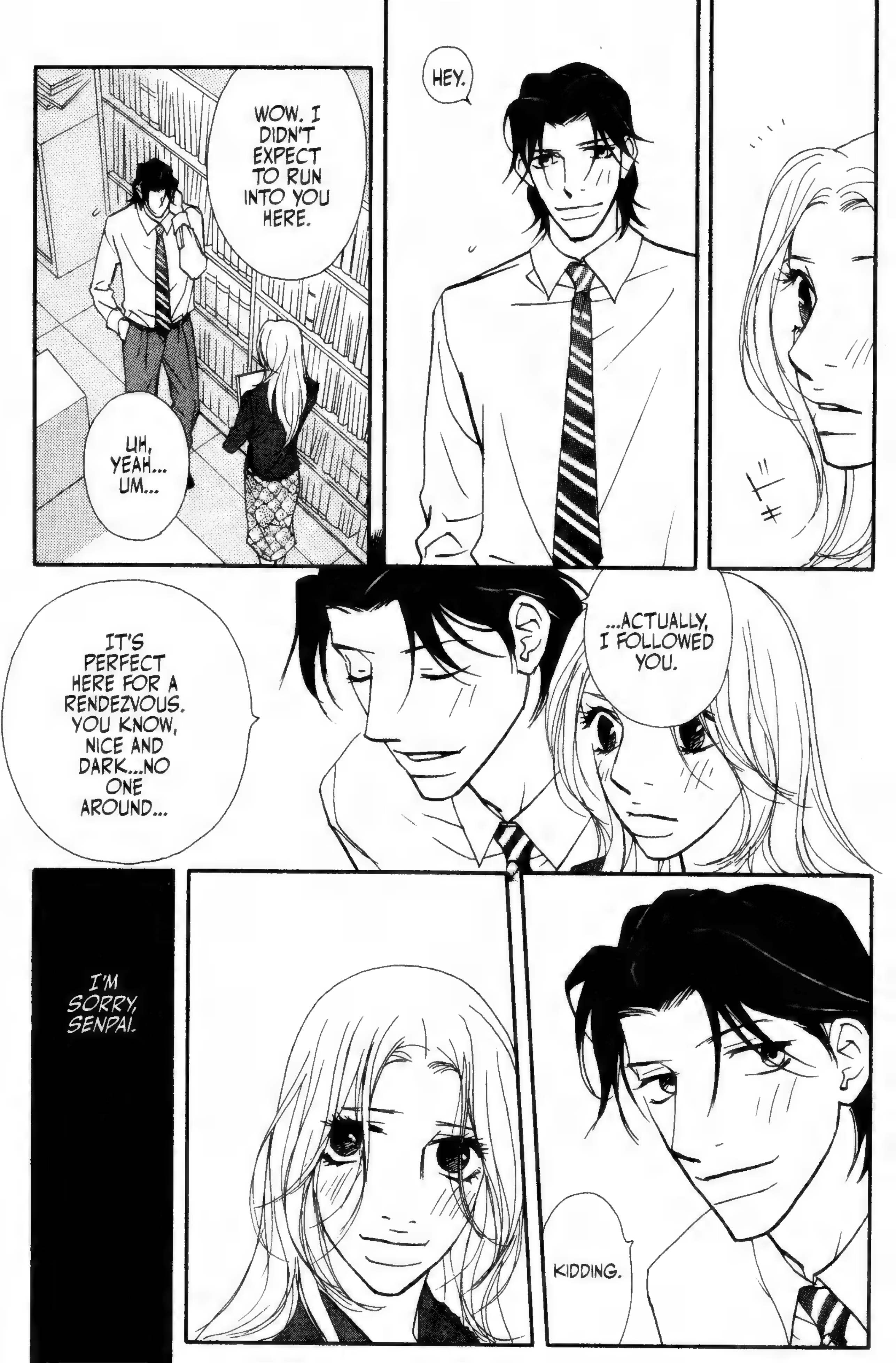
IN THAT CASE, DO YOU REALIZE SHE'S GETTING MARRIED?
YOU'RE OUT THE DOOR IF THAT HAPPENS, AREN'T YOU?
HMM... FUKUSHIMA-SAN, RIGHT?
YOU'VE GOT LIPSTICK ON YOUR TEETH.
EH?!
WHAT IF I DID KNOW? WHAT WOULD YOU WANT ME TO DO?
ALL RIGHT, THEN, I'LL GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
I WANT HASUMI-SAN.
AND I WANT *YOU* TO STEAL HER FROM HIM.

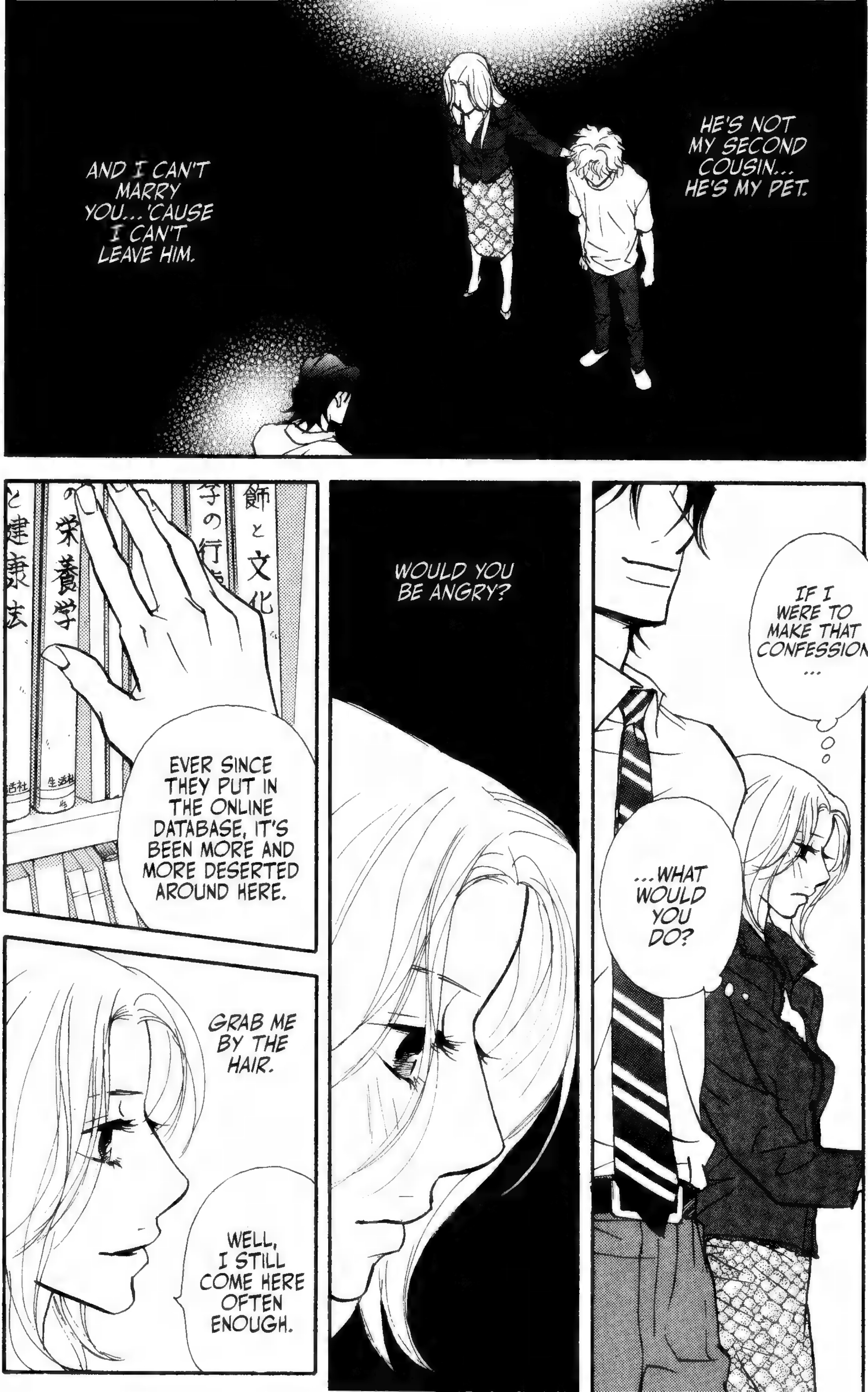
AND THEN YOU CAN RAT ON HER?
EH?
......
I CAN TEACH YOU, IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW.
Stroke
FUKUSHIMA-SAN...
...YOUR NAILS ARE SO PRETTY.
EH...?

DO YOU TAKE CARE OF THEM EVERY DAY?
NOT REALLY ...
...I TRIM THE CUTICLES SOMETIMES... BUT THAT'S IT.
AH...AND THE BACKS OF YOUR HANDS...
...SO SOFT.
MY GOD... HE IS GOOD.
はっ
ぱっ
OKAY.
YOU KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH GIRLS.
MY GUARD WAS COMPLETELY DOWN.
THOSE EYES AND THAT TOUCH... HE REALLY IS SOMETHING.
SO WHY DON'T YOU USE IT ON ***HER***?

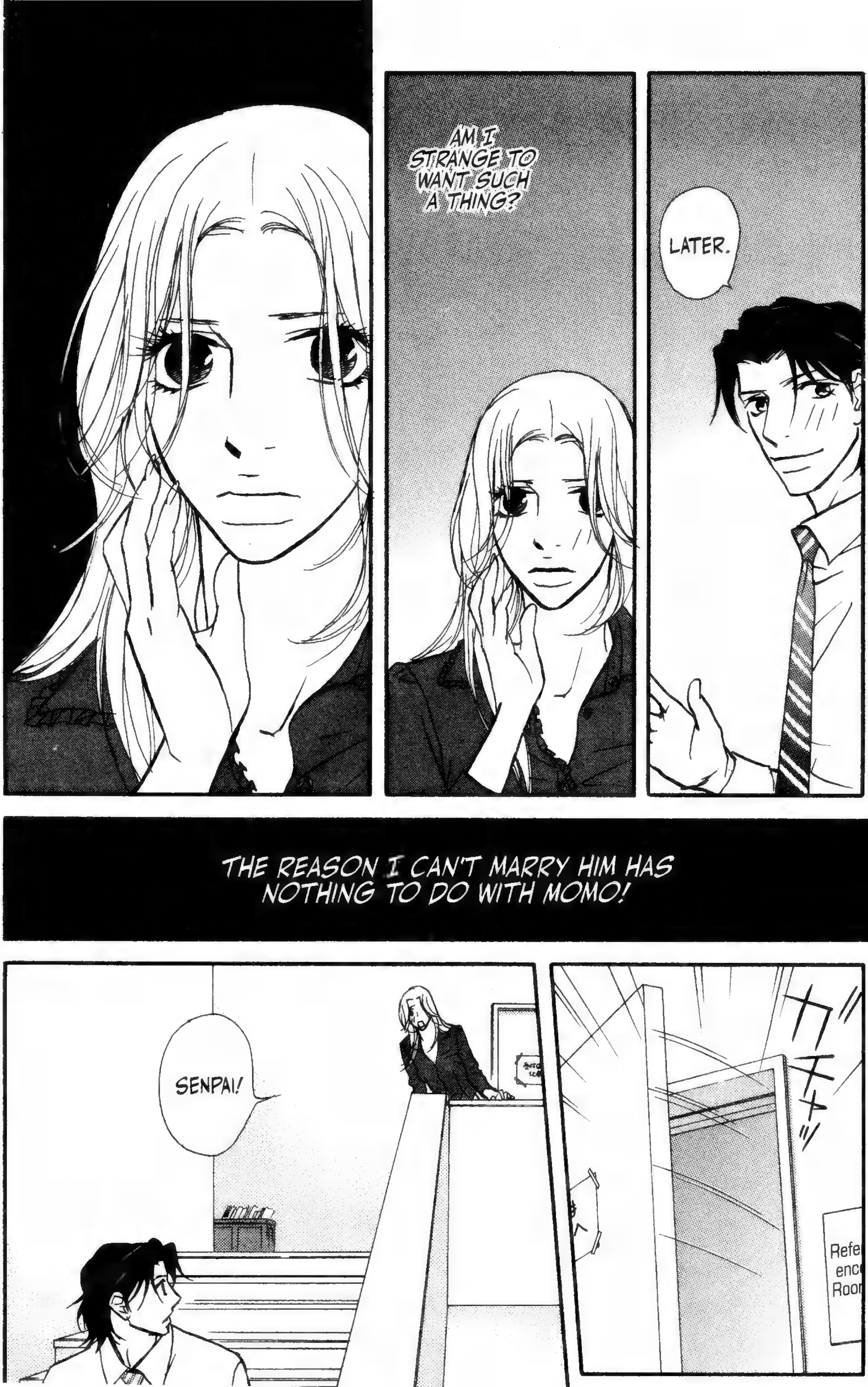
YEAH... I COULD DO THAT ANYTIME.
BUT IT'S NOT WHAT *SHE* WANTS.
IF SOMEONE'S SWEET TO ME, I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR THEM.
BUT THAT'S AS FAR AS I'LL GO.
IF I CAN'T GIVE HER WHAT SHE REALLY WANTS, I'LL LET HER GO.
'CAUSE IF I CAN'T... I *CAN'T.*
IT'S NO GOOD... FOR *US*... IF I'M JUST FORCING MYSELF ON HER.
OKAY, POINT TAKEN.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, WHY GIVE UP HOPE?
I HAVE FAITH THAT YOU CAN DO IT.

AND WHAT WOULD IT GET ME?
CAVIAR AND DOM PERIGNON.
I'M NOT EVEN OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK...
PLEASE ENTER ON


HEY.
WOW. I DIDN'T EXPECT TO RUN INTO YOU HERE.
UH, YEAH... UM...
...ACTUALLY, I FOLLOWED YOU.
IT'S PERFECT HERE FOR A RENDEZVOUS. YOU KNOW, NICE AND DARK...NO ONE AROUND...
KIDDING.
I'M SORRY, SENPAI.


HE'S NOT MY SECOND COUSIN... HE'S MY PET.
AND I CAN'T MARRY YOU... 'CAUSE I CAN'T LEAVE HIM.
IF I WERE TO MAKE THAT CONFESSION ...
...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
WOULD YOU BE ANGRY?
EVER SINCE THEY PUT IN THE ONLINE DATABASE, IT'S BEEN MORE AND MORE DESERTED AROUND HERE.
GRAB ME BY THE HAIR.
WELL, I STILL COME HERE OFTEN ENOUGH.

ABUSE ME. CALL ME A LIAR.
WE CAN ACCESS BOOKS RANDOMLY NOW, CAN'T WE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
PUSH ME DOWN AND BLAME ME AS MUCH AS YOU WANT TO.
WELL, I'D BETTER HEAD BACK.
CALL ME ANYTIME, OKAY?
AND I WILL SHED TEARS FREELY...
...PLEDGING ETERNAL LOYALTY BETWEEN SOBS.
OKAY...
キョロ
AM I STRANGE...?

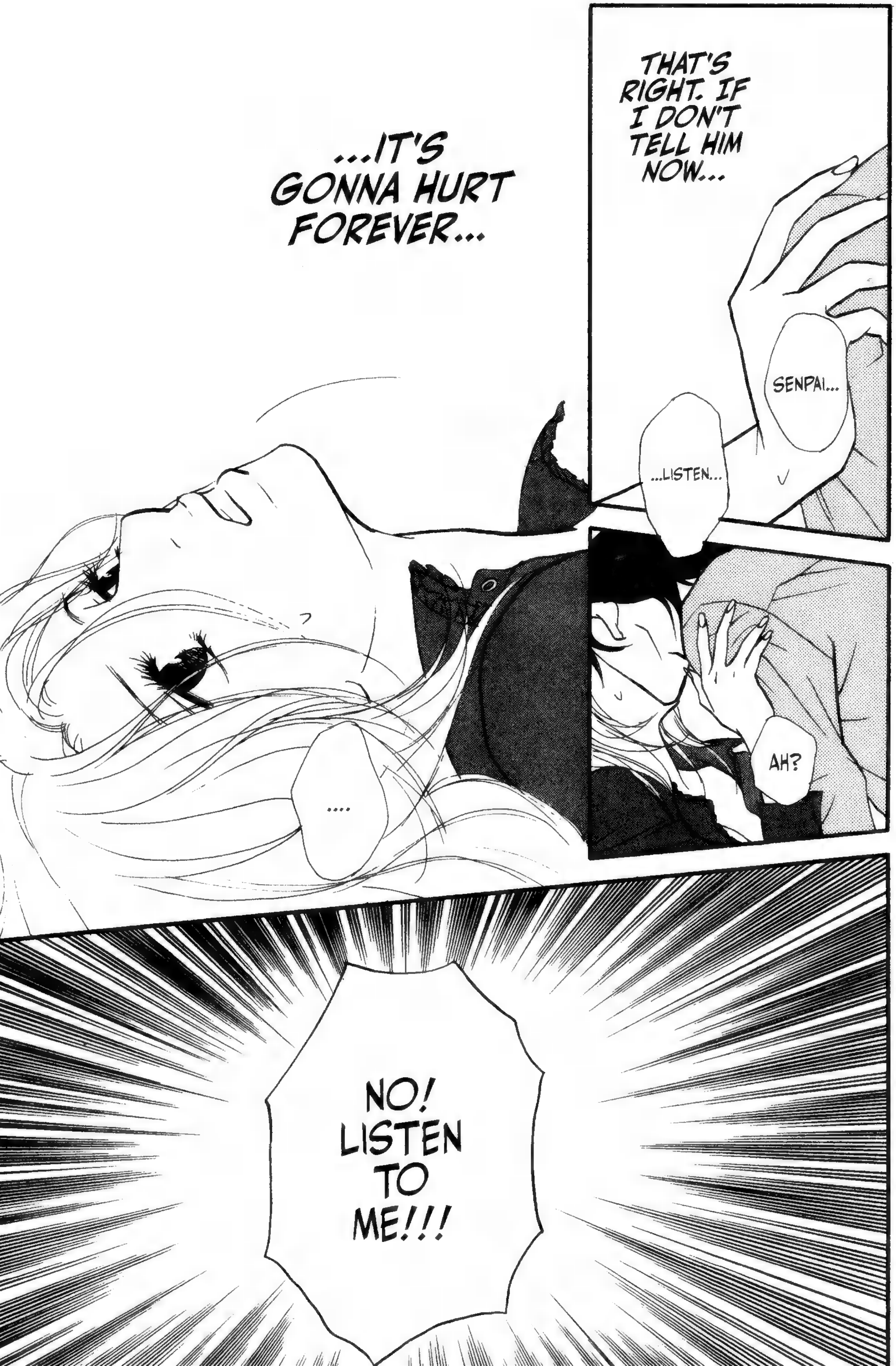

LATER.
AM I STRANGE TO WANT SUCH A THING?
THE REASON I CAN'T MARRY HIM HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MOMO!
カチャ
SENPAI!

THE PROBLEM...
...IS ME.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.
I'LL CALL YOU AFTER WORK.
SENPAI...
HEY...I HAVE...

AH... SORRY.
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ALONE FOR SO LONG THAT I--
WASN'T THINKING...
Y-YEAH. THAT'S OKAY.
SO... WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY?
...I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
POP POP
S...
...SENPAI...
...WHY DO YOU WANT TO MARRY ME?
EH...?
WELL...
...YOU KNOW THE WAY YOU ALWAYS PASS YOUR HAND OVER MY HAIR?
IN BED... OR...

EH...I DO...?
YEAH... IT'S LIKE NOTHING I'VE EVER FELT BEFORE.
IT TOUCHES ME SO DEEPLY.
DO I REALLY DO THAT?!
PET PET
YAHOO!
AND THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SUCH A SWEET PERSON...
...MAKES ME FEEL... NURTURED, I GUESS.
WHAT?!!
EVEN WHEN WE'RE JUST SITTING TOGETHER, I FEEL LIKE WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, Y'KNOW?
BUT... WE DON'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER AT ALL...
...IN FACT, WE'VE COMPLETELY MISSED EACH OTHER!
YOUR VERY EXISTENCE COMFORTS ME.
PLUS, I THINK IT'D BE GREAT TO LIVE WITH A DOG!
HEH HEH
OH, COME ON... I DON'T EVEN HAVE ONE!
SENPAI... THAT ISN'T ME.
LOOK ...
...I DON'T KNOW. WHATEVER THE REASON...
...I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU.

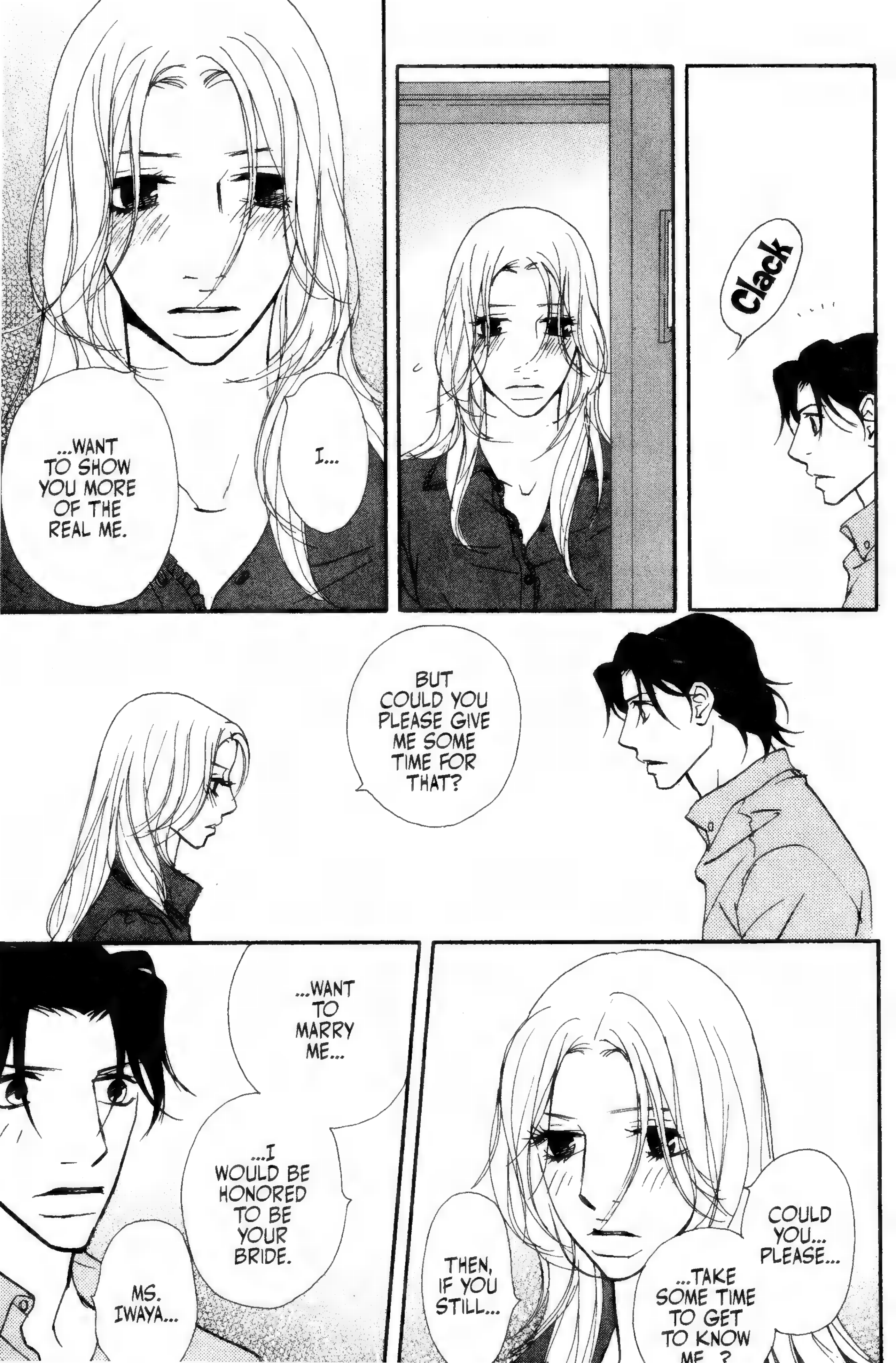
AH!
Slip
HEY-- WE'RE NOT FINISHED HERE!
SENPAI ...
OH! ♥
SHOOT! I FORGOT THAT THIS IS HIS TERRITORY...
...I CAN'T BEAT THE ENEMY ON HIS OWN TURF!
(CONCEPT ART)
A RELATIONSHIP ISN'T A BLISTER. IT'S NOT GONNA HEAL IF YOU COVER IT UP.
AH, WELL...I GUESS IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
ENDORPHINS: ENGAGED!
I DON'T WANNA THINK ANYMORE...
...JUST WANT...TO FEEL...

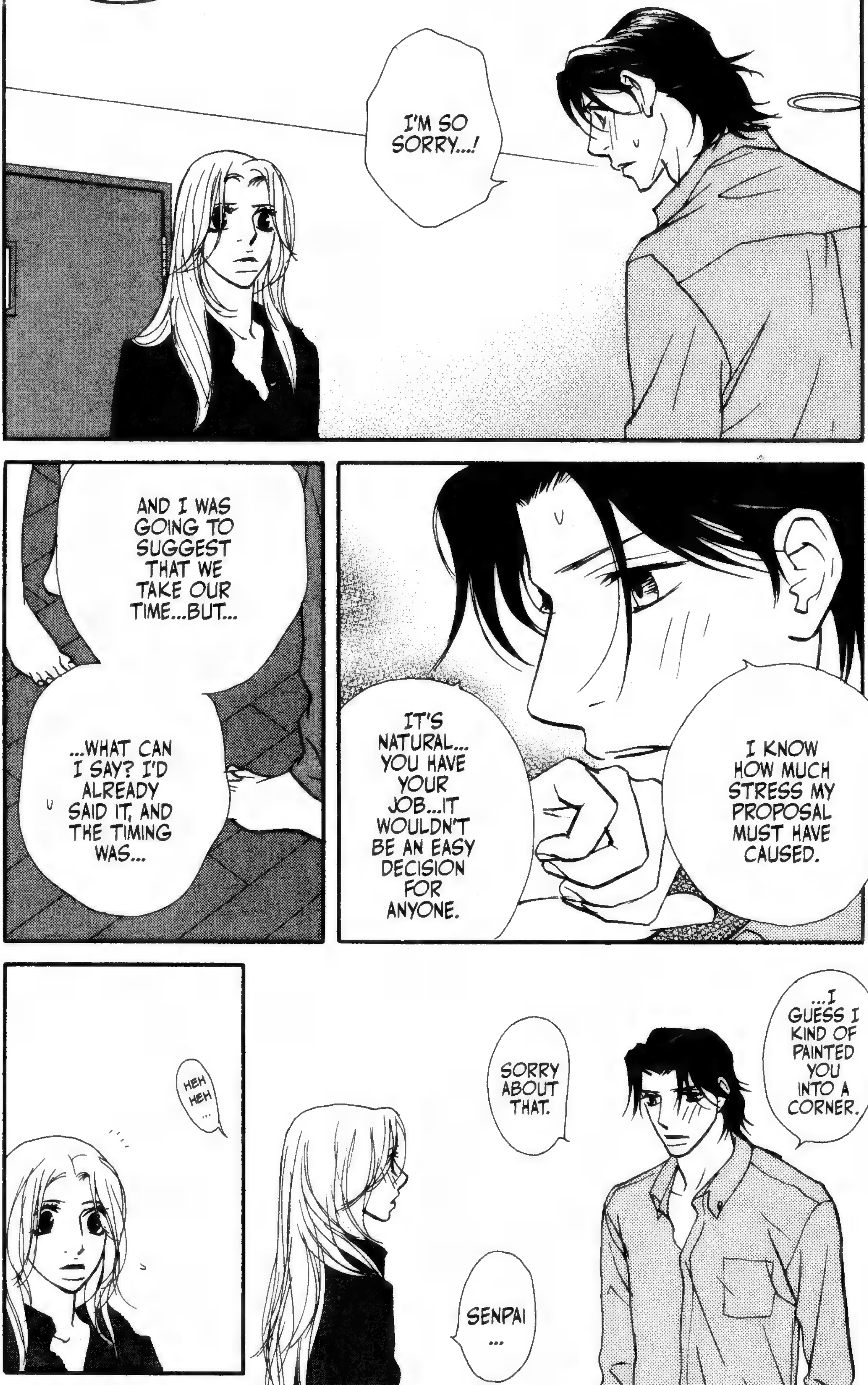

THAT'S RIGHT. IF I DON'T TELL HIM NOW...
...IT'S GONNA HURT FOREVER...
SENPAI...
...LISTEN...
AH?
....
NO! LISTEN TO ME!!!

AH...
びっ
くり
...SORRY... I...
...YELLED... AT YOU.
I MEAN...
I DIDN'T MEAN...
...FOR THAT TO COME OUT.
I...
AND NOW IT WON'T STOP.
Sob

MS. IWAYA?!
I AM JUST AN EMPTY SHELL.
A REFLECTION OF THE ILLUSION HE CREATED.
MS. IWAYA....
...ARE YOU OKAY?
knock knock
I CLOSE MYSELF OFF AT THE CRUCIAL POINT...
...I CAN'T EVEN SHOW HIM MY TRUE FEELINGS.
ARE YOU FEELING SICK?

CAN'T EVEN SHOW HIM...
...MY TEARS...
MS. IWAYA...
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH...
DON'T MIND ME ANYMORE...
...WHY?
MORE LIKE IMPOSSIBLE...
...IMPOSSIBLE, IMPOSSIBLE, IMPOSSIBLE...
DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING...
I CAN'T DO THAT...
WANNA LOOK BETTER...
WANNA SMOKE...
MARRIAGE? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS...

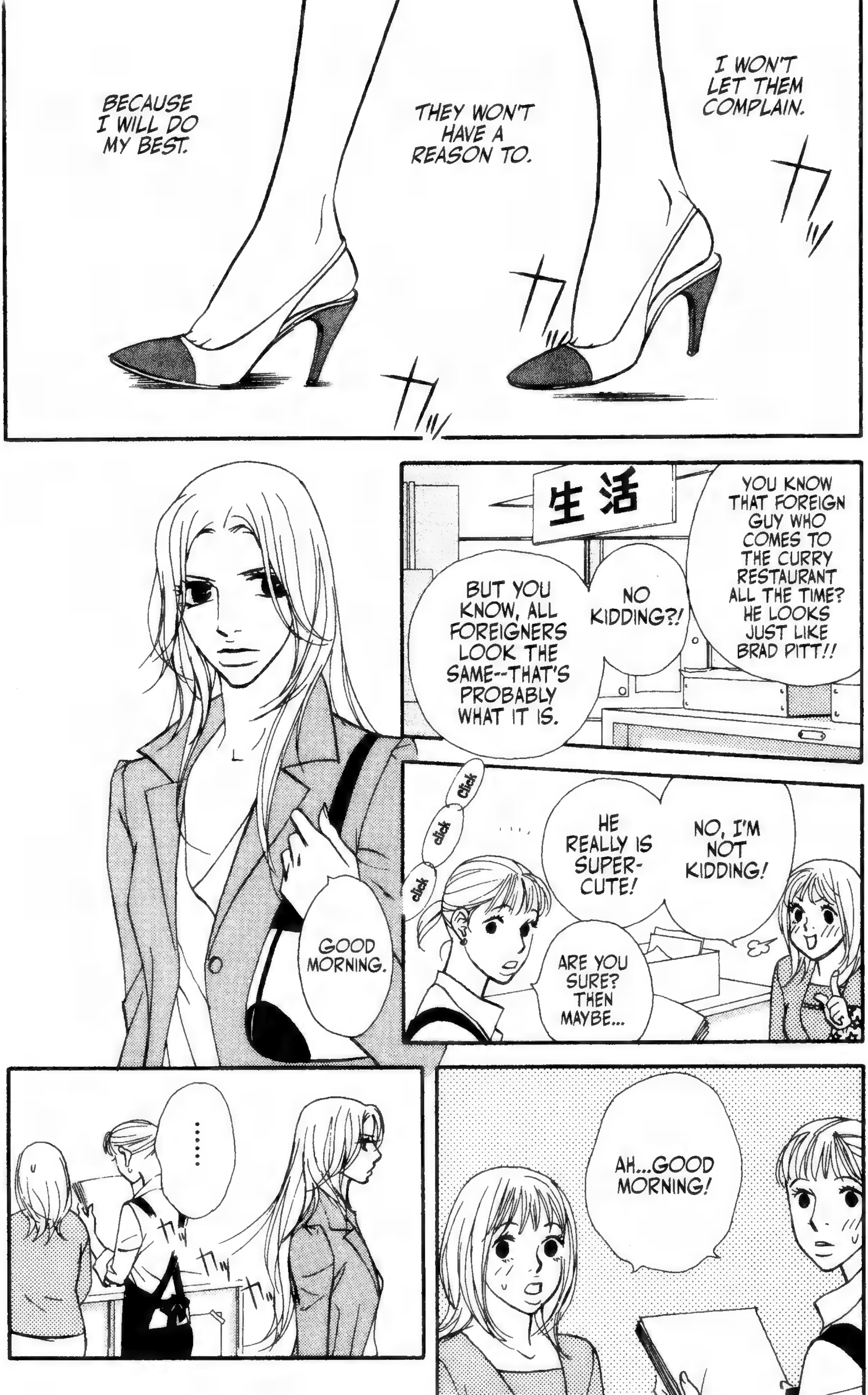

Clack
I...
...WANT TO SHOW YOU MORE OF THE REAL ME.
BUT COULD YOU PLEASE GIVE ME SOME TIME FOR THAT?
COULD YOU... PLEASE...
...TAKE SOME TIME TO GET TO KNOW
THEN, IF YOU STILL...
...WANT TO MARRY ME...
...I WOULD BE HONORED TO BE YOUR BRIDE.
MS. IWAYA...


I'M SO SORRY...!
I KNOW HOW MUCH STRESS MY PROPOSAL MUST HAVE CAUSED.
IT'S NATURAL... YOU HAVE YOUR JOB...IT WOULDN'T BE AN EASY DECISION FOR ANYONE.
AND I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST THAT WE TAKE OUR TIME...BUT...
...WHAT CAN I SAY? I'D ALREADY SAID IT, AND THE TIMING WAS...
...I GUESS I KIND OF PAINTED YOU INTO A CORNER.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
SENPAI ...
HEH HEH ...

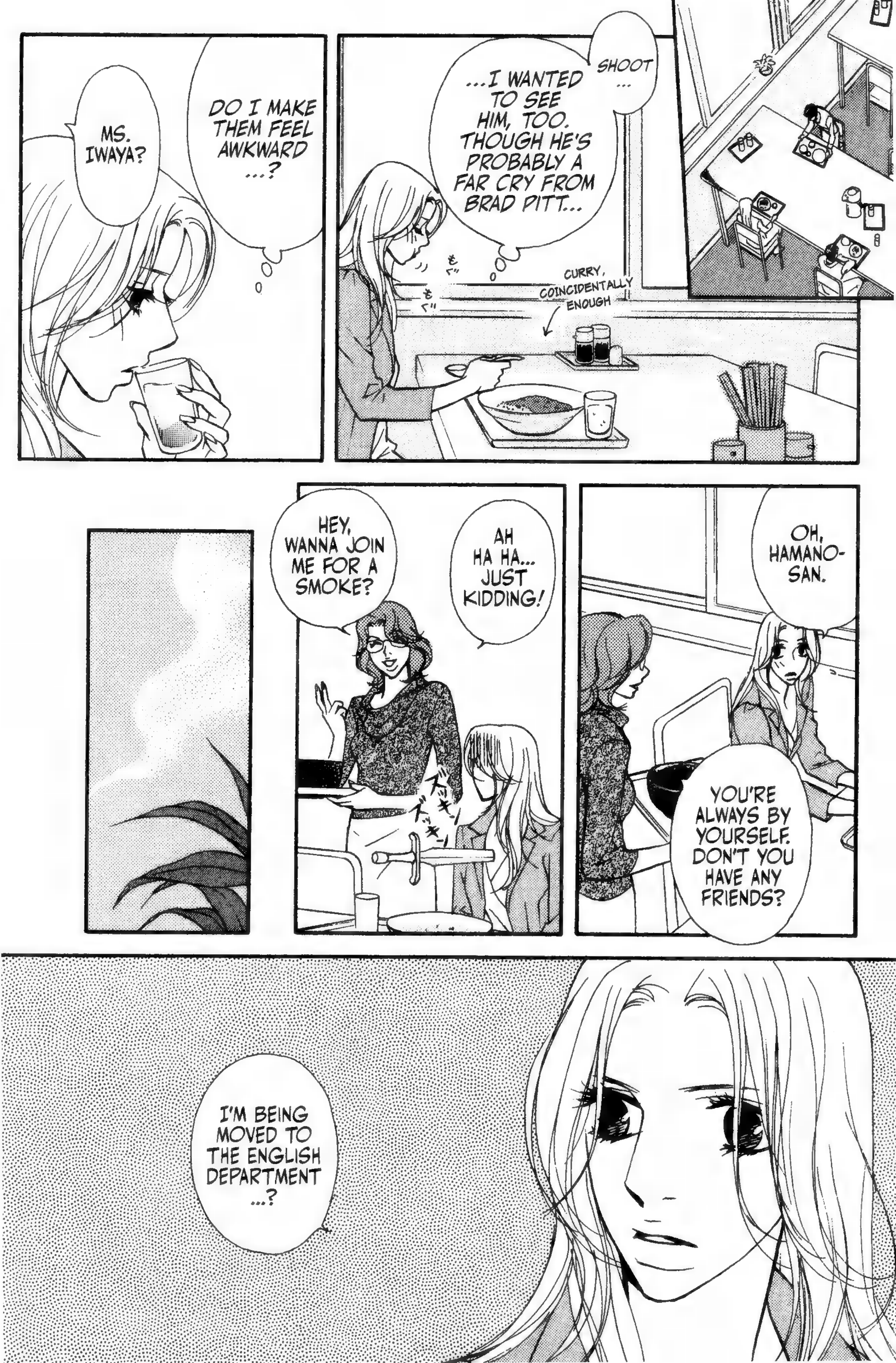
THOUGH YOU DID SURPRISE ME THERE...
...I'D NEVER HEARD YOU YELL THAT LOUD BEFORE.
SORRY...
NO, I'M KIND OF GLAD YOU DID.
THERE MUST BE A LOT ABOUT YOU THAT I STILL DON'T KNOW.
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SHOW ME EVERY-THING...
...LITTLE BY LITTLE?
......
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT EVERY-THING...
NEITHER OF THEM LEARNED THEIR LESSON.
ARE WE DONE TALKING? SHOULD I KISS HER AGAIN?
Badum badum

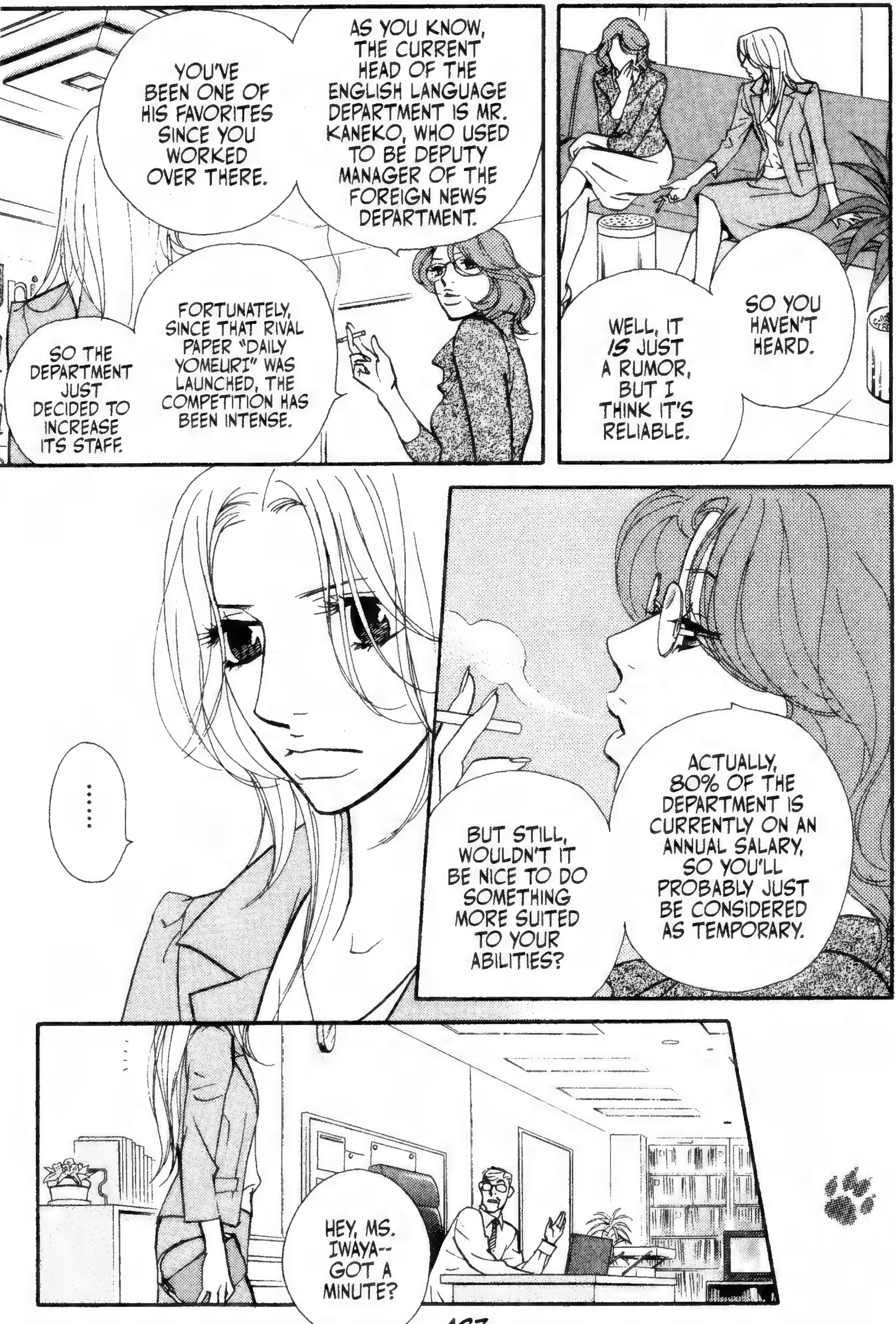
I AM FILLED WITH LOVE AND HATE.
バタン!!
THAT WAS "MINA-CHAN," RIGHT?
WHAT? WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HER?!
NOTHING ...
...I'M JUST NOT VERY SKILLED, I GUESS.
HUH?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
ALL I'VE EVER WANTED WAS A SWEET, TENDER HAND.
I'LL KNOW IT WHEN I SEE IT.
AND I WON'T LET IT GO.

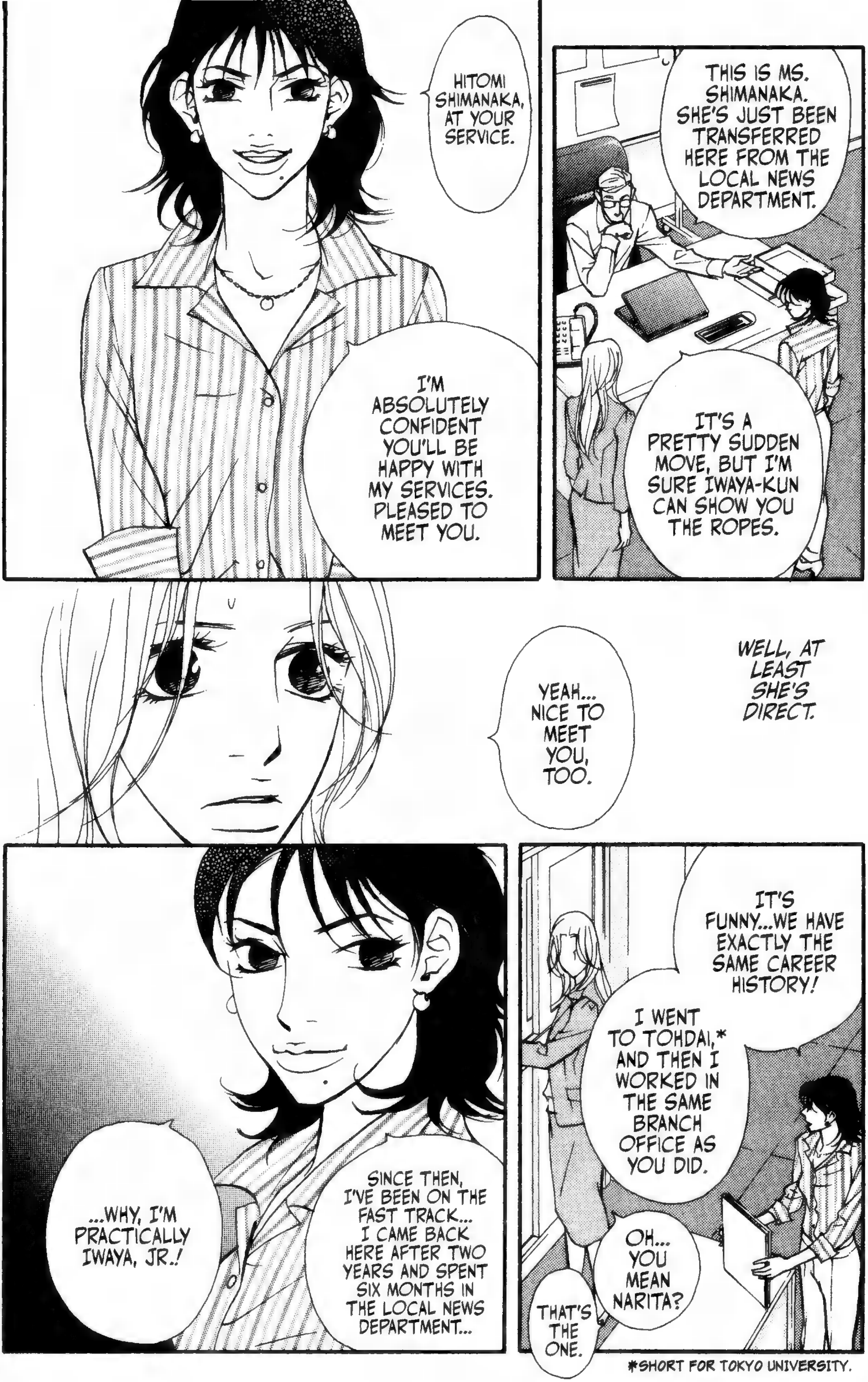
PRESS
Rule27
THE FOOL, OR THE FOOL WHO FOLLOWS?


I WON'T LET THEM COMPLAIN.
THEY WON'T HAVE A REASON TO.
BECAUSE I WILL DO MY BEST.
生活
YOU KNOW THAT FOREIGN GUY WHO COMES TO THE CURRY RESTAURANT ALL THE TIME? HE LOOKS JUST LIKE BRAD PITT!!
NO KIDDING?!
BUT YOU KNOW, ALL FOREIGNERS LOOK THE SAME--THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT IT IS.
NO, I'M NOT KIDDING!
HE REALLY IS SUPER-CUTE!
ARE YOU SURE? THEN MAYBE...
click
click
click
....
GOOD MORNING.
AH...GOOD MORNING!
......

A FOREIGN GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE BRAD PITT...
...I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT.
...DID THEY STOP TALKING?
MS. IWAYA DOESN'T TALK ABOUT THOSE TYPES OF THINGS.
PSST PSST
OF COURSE NOT.
KINDA LIKES BRAD PITT
WHY...
くるっ
びくっ
S-SORRY ABOUT THAT.
WE'LL BE QUIET!
HEY, THAT'S THE CURRY RESTAURANT NEXT TO STARBUCKS, RIGHT?
LET'S GO THERE FOR LUNCH TODAY!
OKAY! COOL!
ALTHOUGH...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO BLAME THEM.
SHE DOES WANNA GO WITH THEM.
C'MON... YOUR VOICE IS SO LOUD, KURAKI!
SORRY! SORRY!
...

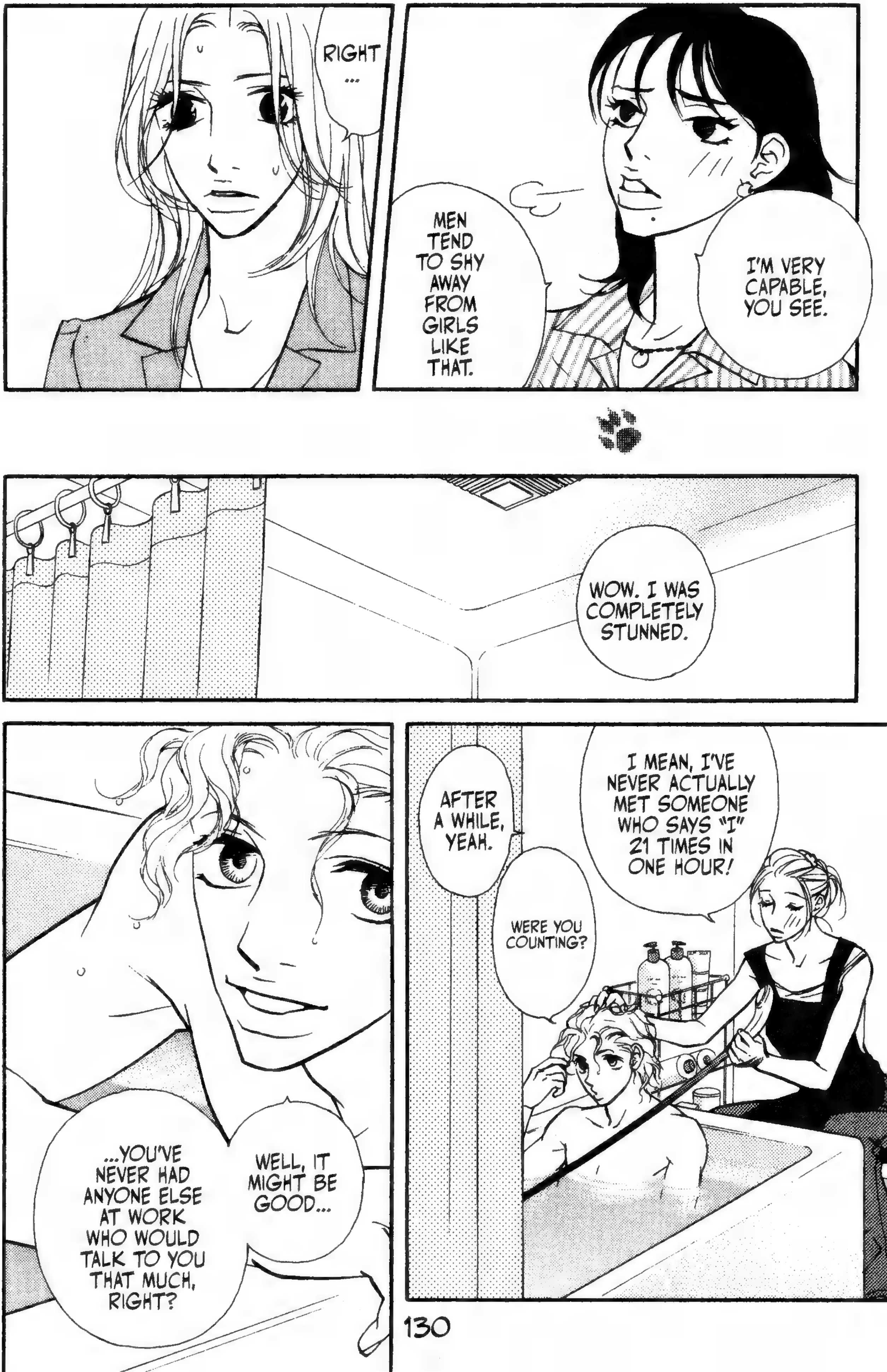

SHOOT ...
...I WANTED TO SEE HIM, TOO. THOUGH HE'S PROBABLY A FAR CRY FROM BRAD PITT...
CURRY, COINCIDENTALLY ENOUGH
DO I MAKE THEM FEEL AWKWARD ...?
MS. IWAYA?
OH, HAMANO-SAN.
YOU'RE ALWAYS BY YOURSELF. DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FRIENDS?
AH HA HA... JUST KIDDING!
HEY, WANNA JOIN ME FOR A SMOKE?
I'M BEING MOVED TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ...?


SO YOU HAVEN'T HEARD.
WELL, IT *IS* JUST A RUMOR, BUT I THINK IT'S RELIABLE.
AS YOU KNOW, THE CURRENT HEAD OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT IS MR. KANEKO, WHO USED TO BE DEPUTY MANAGER OF THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT.
YOU'VE BEEN ONE OF HIS FAVORITES SINCE YOU WORKED OVER THERE.
FORTUNATELY, SINCE THAT RIVAL PAPER "DAILY YOMEURI" WAS LAUNCHED, THE COMPETITION HAS BEEN INTENSE.
SO THE DEPARTMENT JUST DECIDED TO INCREASE ITS STAFF.
ACTUALLY, 80% OF THE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY ON AN ANNUAL SALARY, SO YOU'LL PROBABLY JUST BE CONSIDERED AS TEMPORARY.
BUT STILL, WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO DO SOMETHING MORE SUITED TO YOUR ABILITIES?
......
HEY, MS. IWAYA-- GOT A MINUTE?

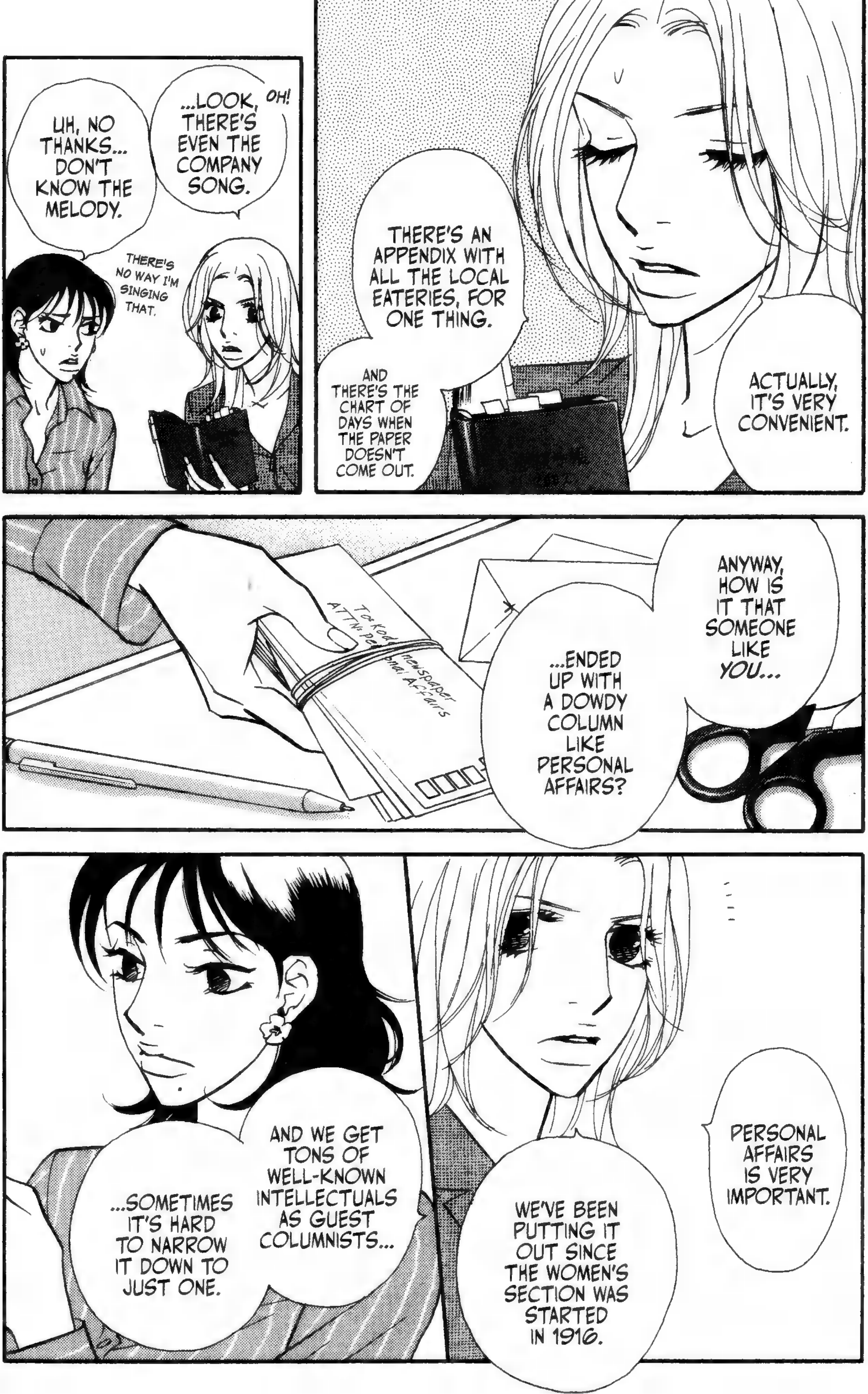


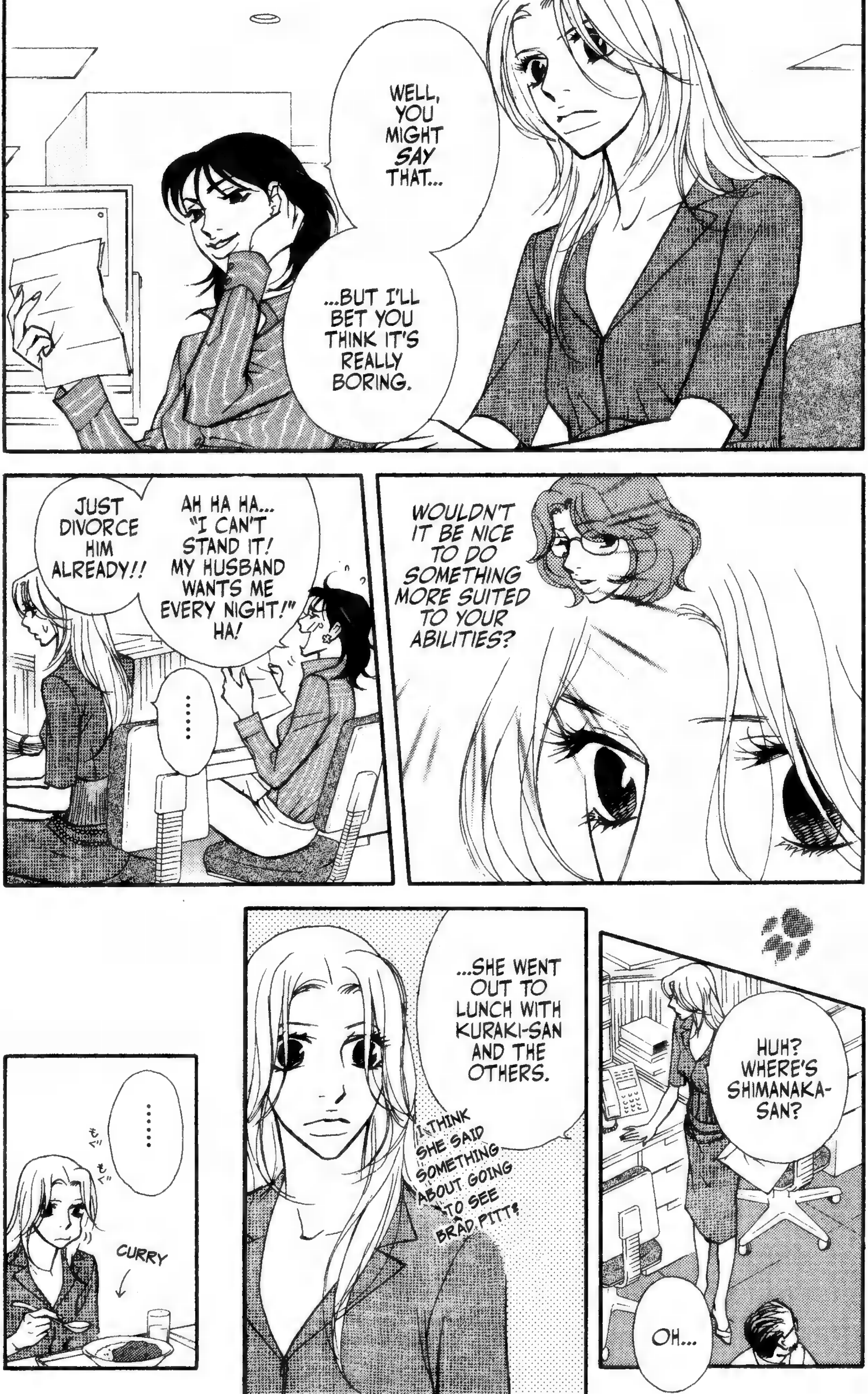
*SHORT FOR TOKYO UNIVERSITY.

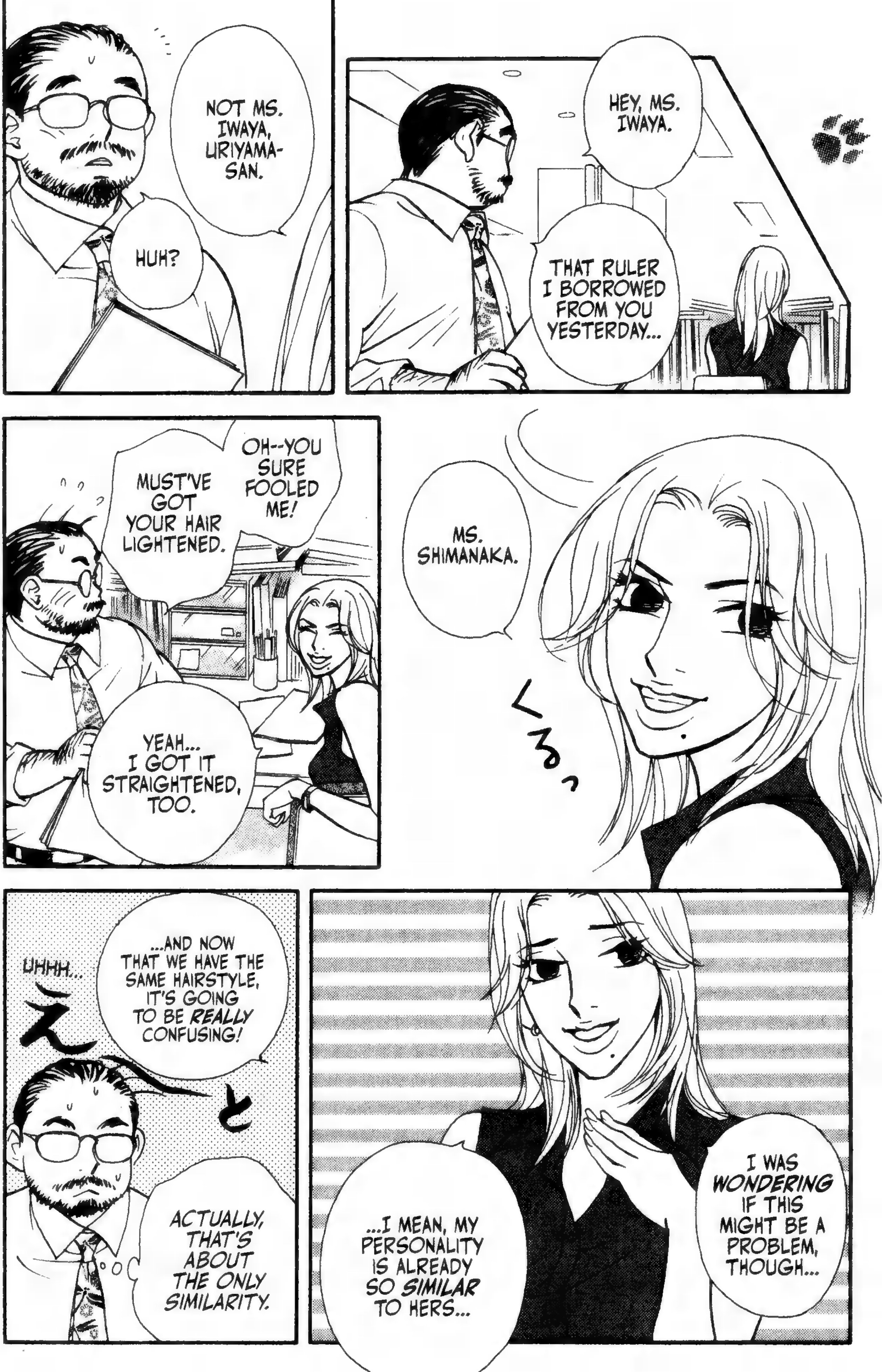
MS. IWAYA ALSO WENT TO HARVARD, AND SHE WORKED IN THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT BEFORE COMING TO THIS ONE.
WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU'RE EXACTLY THE SAME.
UH...
BY THE WAY, YOU'RE DATING HASUMI-SAN FROM THE FOREIGN NEWS DEPARTMENT, RIGHT?
ACK... SCARY.
WELL, OF COURSE, THERE ARE SLIGHT DIFFERENCES.
MUST BE NICE.
WELL... UM...
NOT LISTENING
I'M NOT POPULAR WITH THE GUYS MYSELF.
NO ONE'S EVER ACTUALLY COME OUT AND ASKED HER!
?
I MEAN, EVERYONE KNOWS, BUT...
WOW!

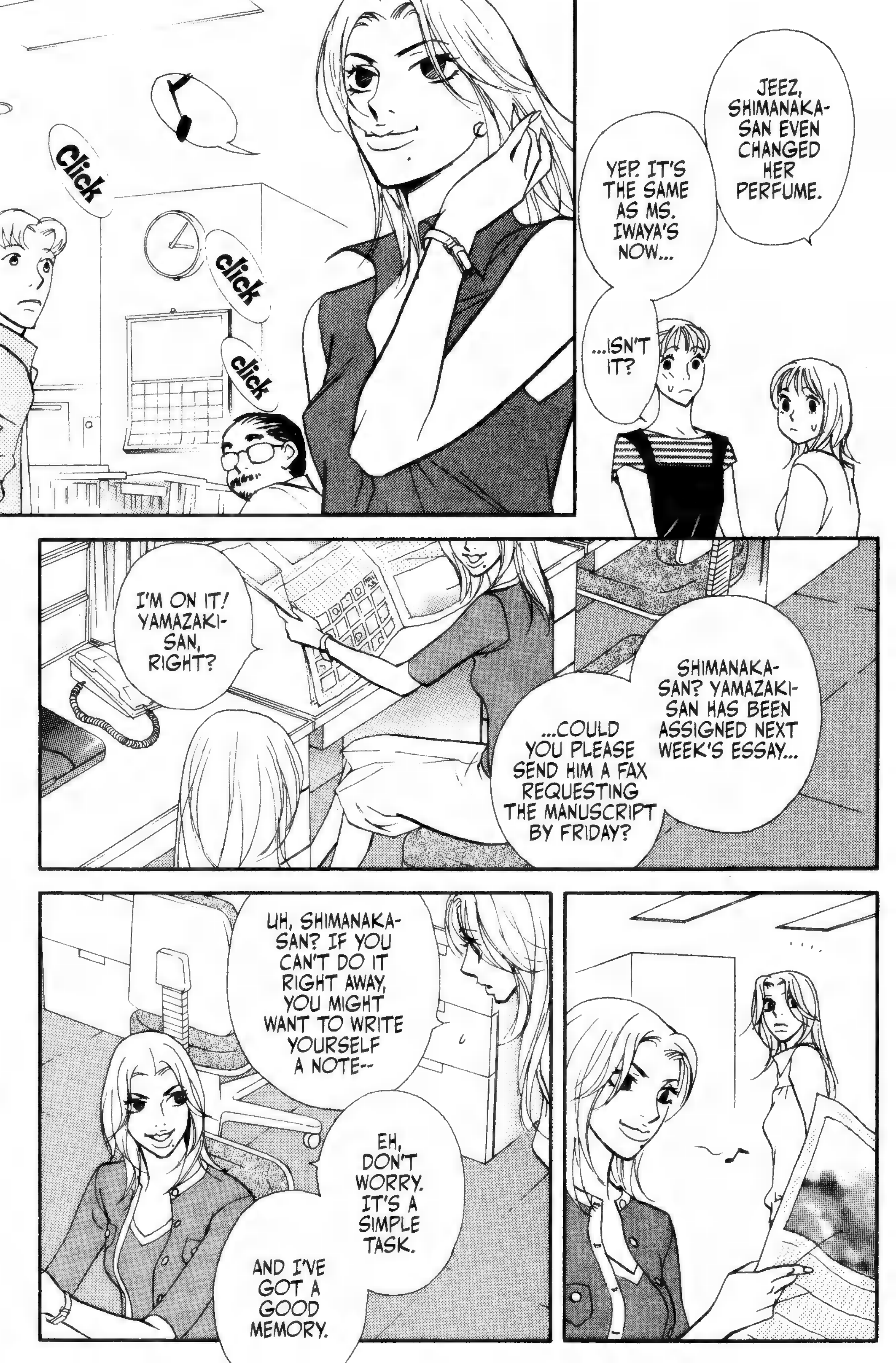

I'M VERY CAPABLE, YOU SEE.
MEN TEND TO SHY AWAY FROM GIRLS LIKE THAT.
RIGHT ...
WOW. I WAS COMPLETELY STUNNED.
I MEAN, I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY MET SOMEONE WHO SAYS "I" 21 TIMES IN ONE HOUR!
WERE YOU COUNTING?
AFTER A WHILE, YEAH.
WELL, IT MIGHT BE GOOD...
...YOU'VE NEVER HAD ANYONE ELSE AT WORK WHO WOULD TALK TO YOU THAT MUCH, RIGHT?

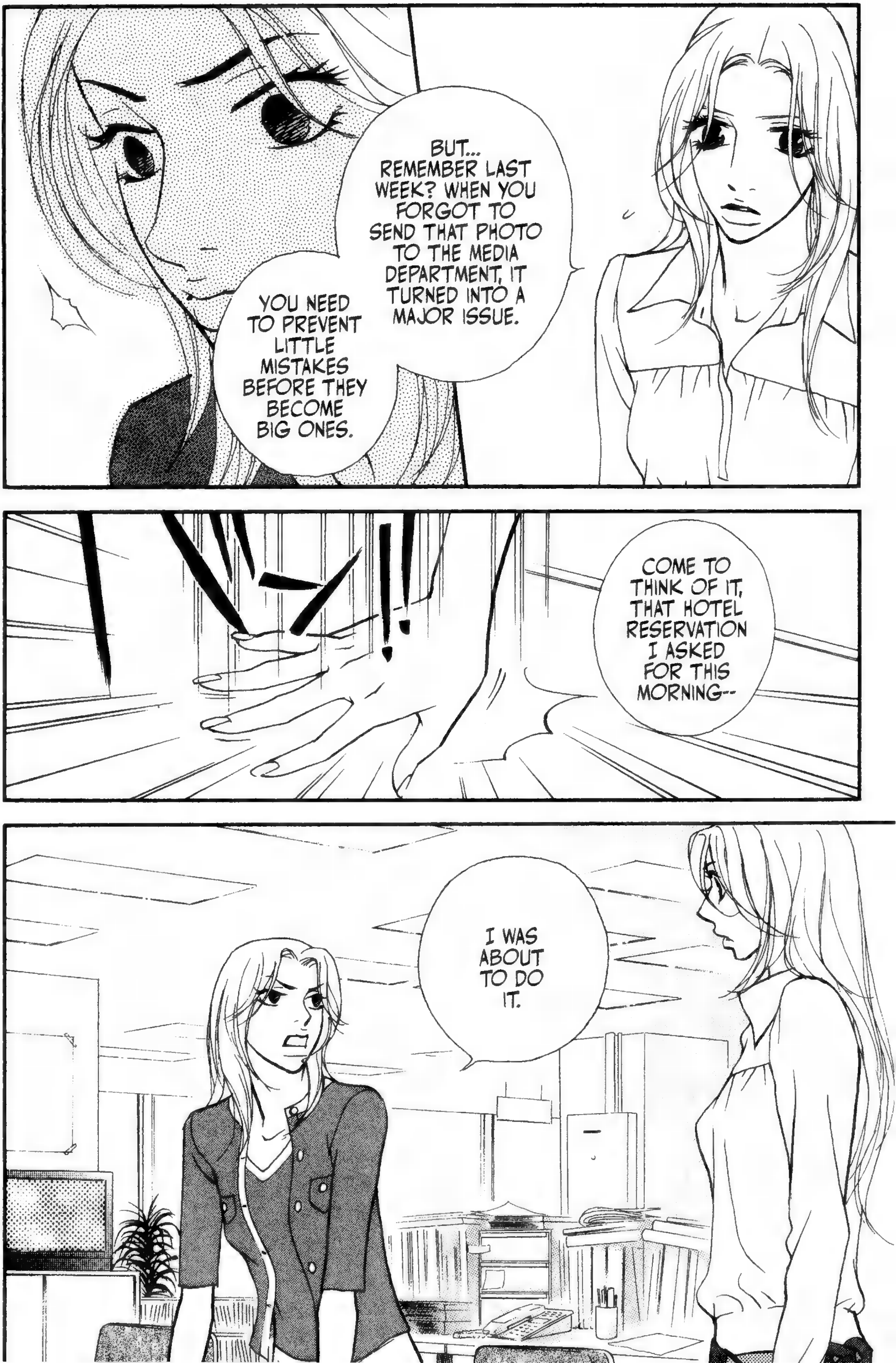
HMM...
...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, IN A WAY.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
HE IS RIGHT, THOUGH...
MS. IWAYA!
DO YOU ACTUALLY USE THE COMPANY-ISSUED DATEBOOK?
I WOULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED YOU...
YOU WOULDN'T?
WELL, I WOULD NEVER USE IT.
I MEAN, IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE COOLEST DATEBOOK OUT THERE...

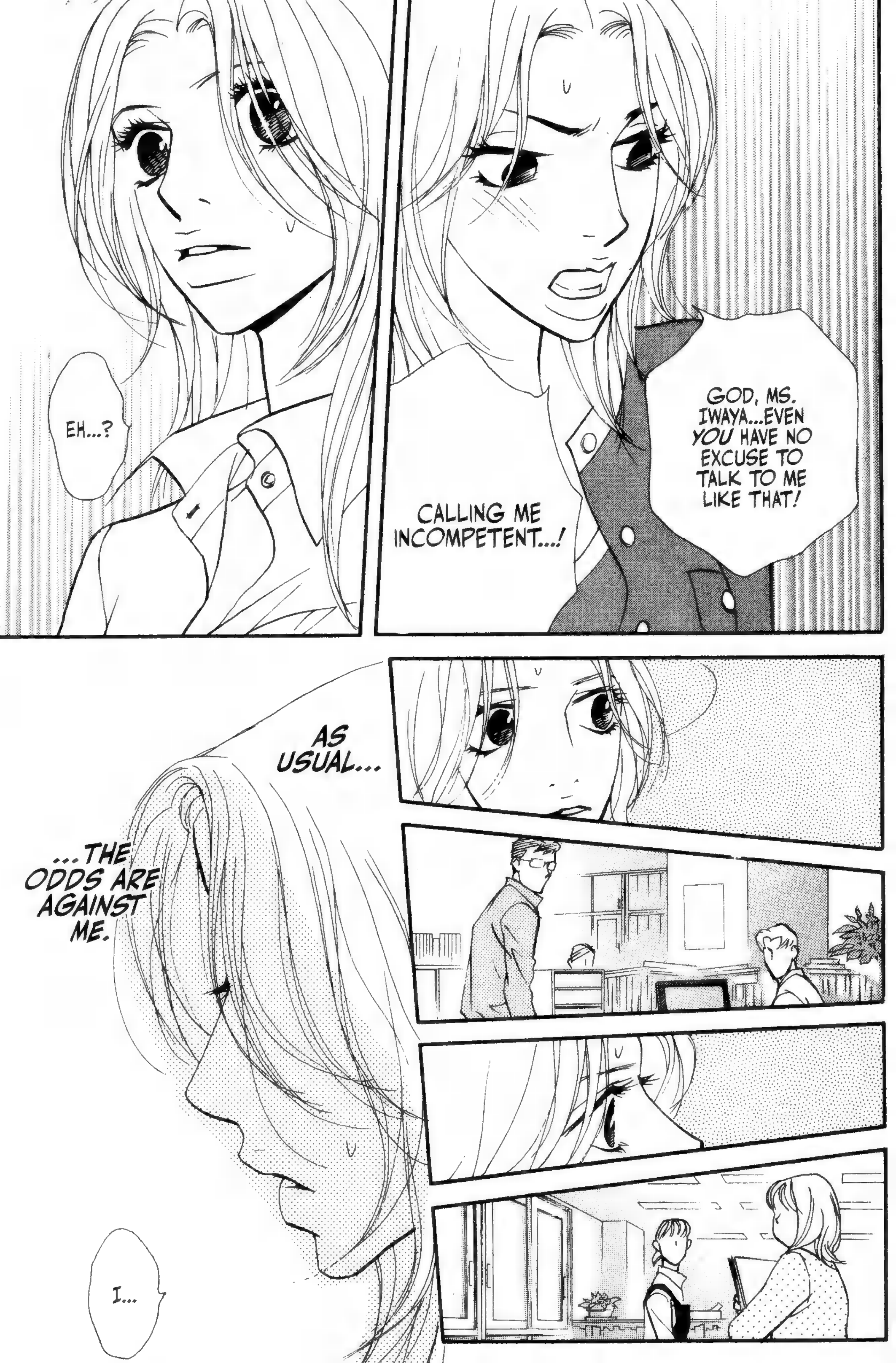

ACTUALLY, IT'S VERY CONVENIENT.
THERE'S AN APPENDIX WITH ALL THE LOCAL EATERIES, FOR ONE THING.
AND THERE'S THE CHART OF DAYS WHEN THE PAPER DOESN'T COME OUT.
OH!
...LOOK, THERE'S EVEN THE COMPANY SONG.
UH, NO THANKS... DON'T KNOW THE MELODY.
THERE'S NO WAY I'M SINGING THAT.
ANYWAY, HOW IS IT THAT SOMEONE LIKE *YOU*...
...ENDED UP WITH A DOWDY COLUMN LIKE PERSONAL AFFAIRS?
...
PERSONAL AFFAIRS IS VERY IMPORTANT.
WE'VE BEEN PUTTING IT OUT SINCE THE WOMEN'S SECTION WAS STARTED IN 1916.
AND WE GET TONS OF WELL-KNOWN INTELLECTUALS AS GUEST COLUMNISTS...
...SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO NARROW IT DOWN TO JUST ONE.

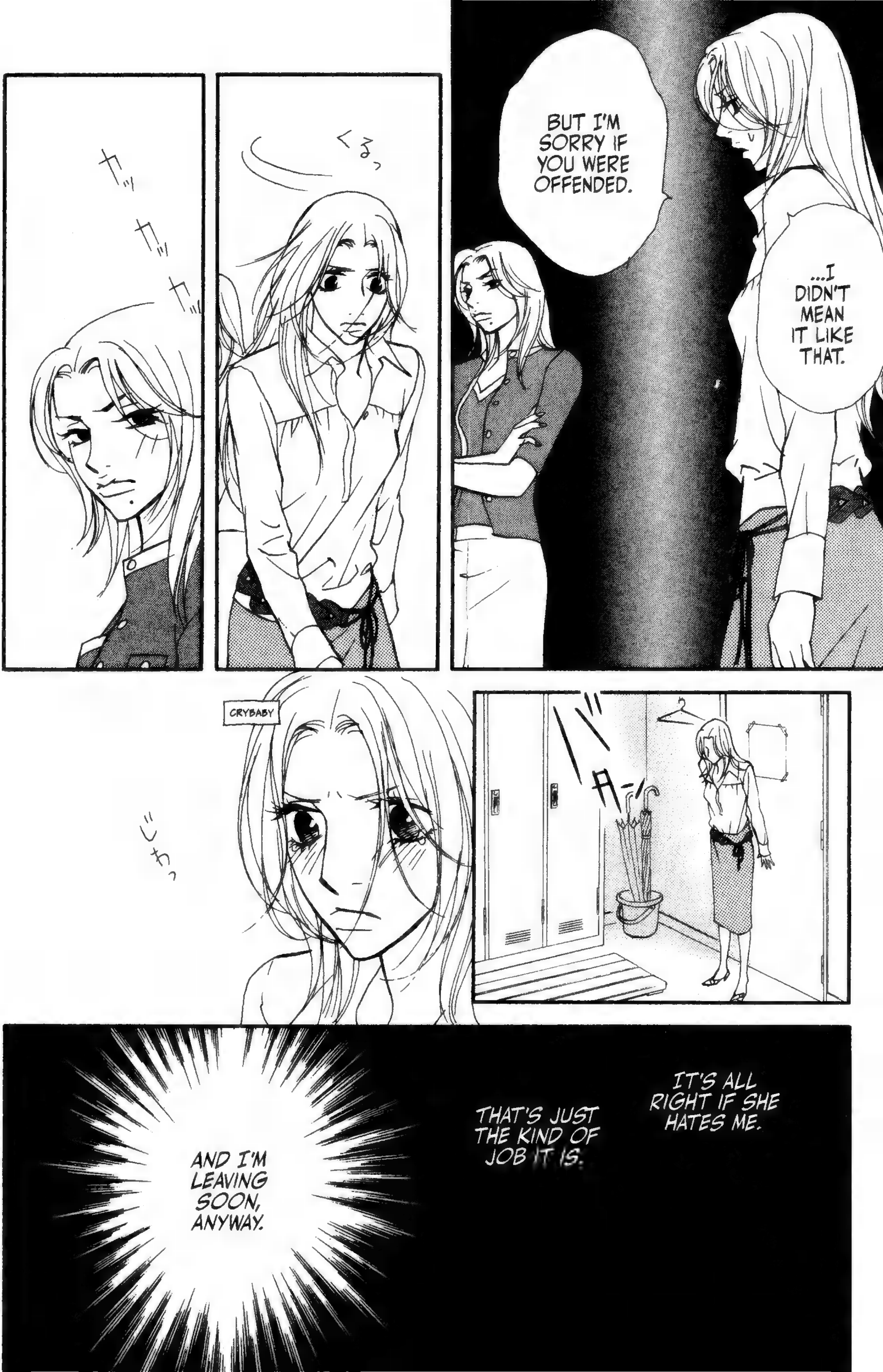

WELL, YOU MIGHT *SAY* THAT...
...BUT I'LL BET YOU THINK IT'S REALLY BORING.
WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO DO SOMETHING MORE SUITED TO YOUR ABILITIES?
AH HA HA... "I CAN'T STAND IT! MY HUSBAND WANTS ME EVERY NIGHT!" HA!
JUST DIVORCE HIM ALREADY!!
......
HUH? WHERE'S SHIMANAKA-SAN?
OH...
...SHE WENT OUT TO LUNCH WITH KURAKI-SAN AND THE OTHERS.
I THINK SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT GOING TO SEE BRAD PITT?
......
もぐ もぐ
CURRY


HEY, MS. IWAYA.
THAT RULER I BORROWED FROM YOU YESTERDAY...
NOT MS. IWAYA, URIYAMA-SAN.
HUH?
MS. SHIMANAKA.
OH--YOU SURE FOOLED ME!
MUST'VE GOT YOUR HAIR LIGHTENED.
YEAH... I GOT IT STRAIGHTENED, TOO.
I WAS *WONDERING* IF THIS MIGHT BE A PROBLEM, THOUGH...
...I MEAN, MY PERSONALITY IS ALREADY SO *SIMILAR* TO HERS...
...AND NOW THAT WE HAVE THE SAME HAIRSTYLE, IT'S GOING TO BE *REALLY* CONFUSING!
UHHH...
ACTUALLY, THAT'S ABOUT THE ONLY SIMILARITY.


JEEZ, SHIMANAKA-SAN EVEN CHANGED HER PERFUME.
YEP. IT'S THE SAME AS MS. IWAYA'S NOW...
...ISN'T IT?
click
click
click
SHIMANAKA-SAN? YAMAZAKI-SAN HAS BEEN ASSIGNED NEXT WEEK'S ESSAY...
...COULD YOU PLEASE SEND HIM A FAX REQUESTING THE MANUSCRIPT BY FRIDAY?
I'M ON IT! YAMAZAKI-SAN, RIGHT?
UH, SHIMANAKA-SAN? IF YOU CAN'T DO IT RIGHT AWAY, YOU MIGHT WANT TO WRITE YOURSELF A NOTE--
EH, DON'T WORRY. IT'S A SIMPLE TASK.
AND I'VE GOT A GOOD MEMORY.

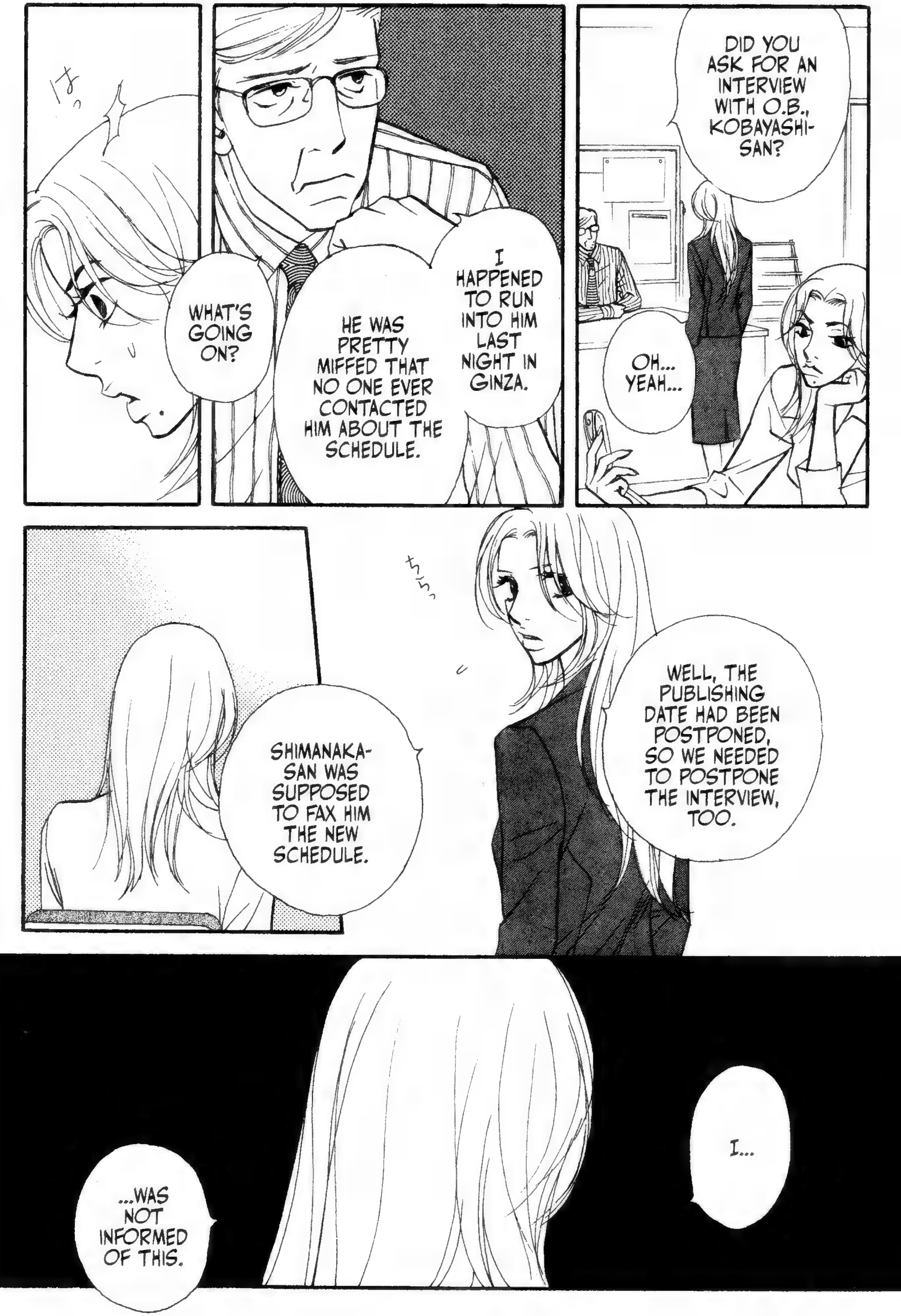

BUT... REMEMBER LAST WEEK? WHEN YOU FORGOT TO SEND THAT PHOTO TO THE MEDIA DEPARTMENT, IT TURNED INTO A MAJOR ISSUE.
YOU NEED TO PREVENT LITTLE MISTAKES BEFORE THEY BECOME BIG ONES.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT HOTEL RESERVATION I ASKED FOR THIS MORNING--
I WAS ABOUT TO DO IT.

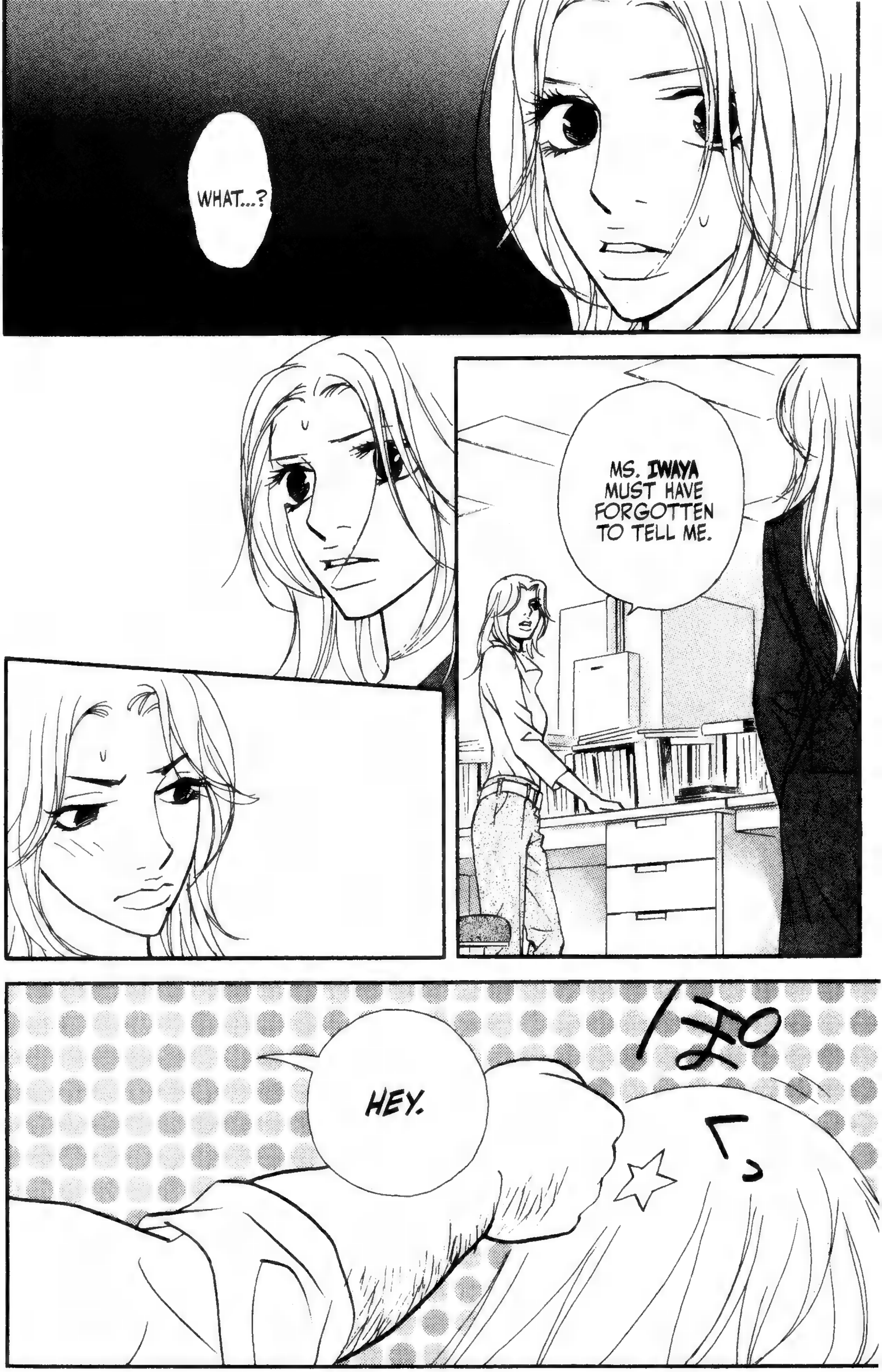

GOD, MS. IWAYA...EVEN YOU HAVE NO EXCUSE TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!
CALLING ME INCOMPETENT...!
EH...?
AS USUAL...
...THE ODDS ARE AGAINST ME.
I...


...I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
BUT I'M SORRY IF YOU WERE OFFENDED.
くるっ
カッ
カッ
カッ
バターン
CRYBABY
じわっ
IT'S ALL RIGHT IF SHE HATES ME.
THAT'S JUST THE KIND OF JOB IT IS.
AND I'M LEAVING SOON, ANYWAY.

SHE'S OBSESSED WITH YOU, ISN'T SHE?
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
EYE PILLOW
SURE. YOU COULD HAVE SAID THE SAME THING TO SOMEONE ELSE, AND THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN IT COMPLETELY DIFFERENTLY.
IT HAPPENS TO ME, TOO.
FOR EXAMPLE, THIS ONE DANCER WAS HAVING TROUBLE WITH HER DANCING, SO SHE ASKED ME FOR ADVICE.
BUT WHEN I WAS FIRM WITH HER, SHE STARTED TO CRY.
THEN NEXT DAY, I WAS THE BAD GUY. SHE SAID I ABUSED HER.
WHEN OF COURSE I DID NOTHING OF THE KIND.
THAT'S SCARY...

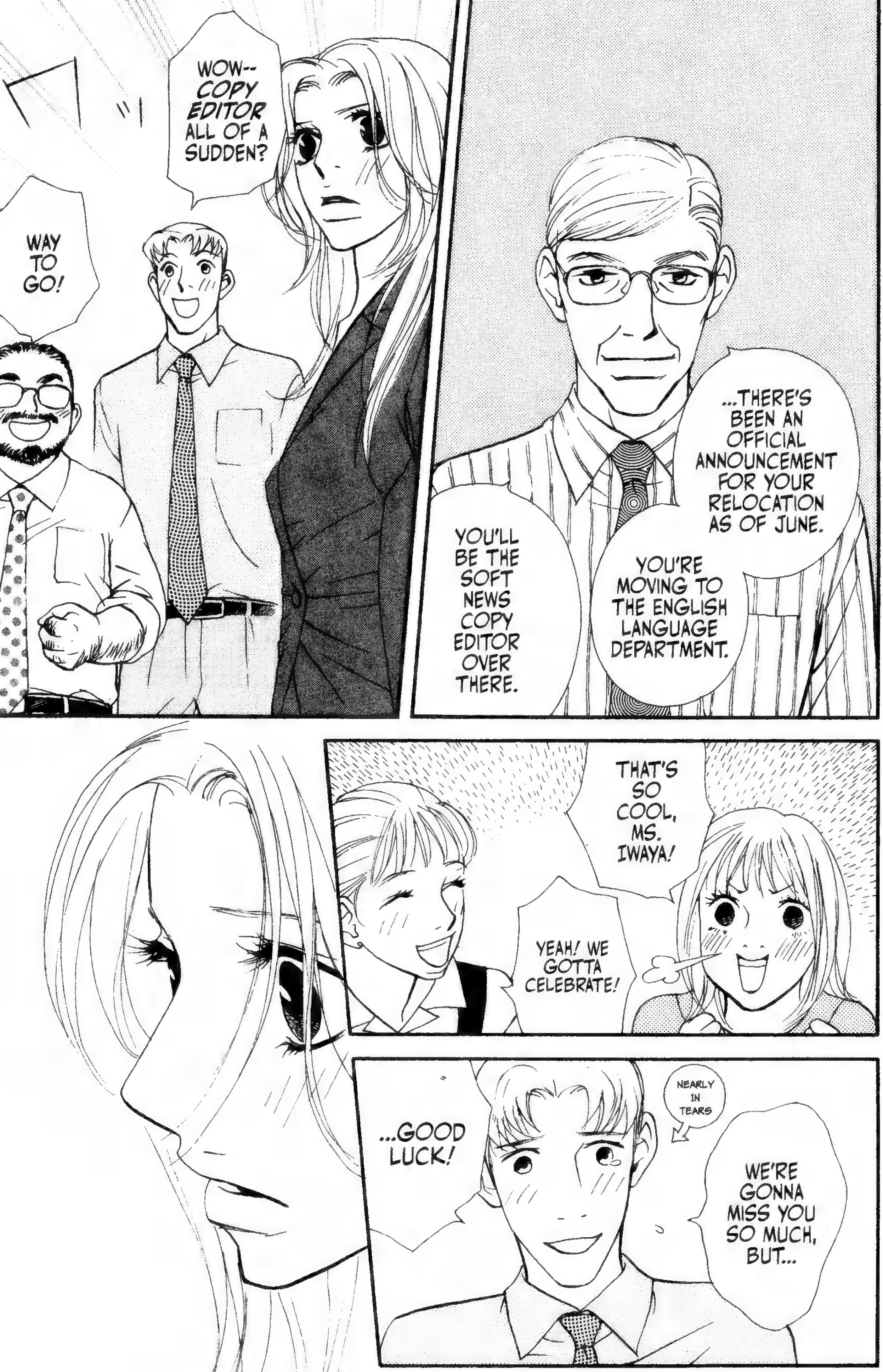
YEAH.
BUT... EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR OWN INSECURITIES.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
IT'S OKAY.
IF YOU TRY, YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL JUDGE YOU FAIRLY.
......
IWAYA-KUN...YOU GOT A MINUTE?


DID YOU ASK FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH O.B., KOBAYASHI-SAN?
OH... YEAH...
I HAPPENED TO RUN INTO HIM LAST NIGHT IN GINZA.
HE WAS PRETTY MIFFED THAT NO ONE EVER CONTACTED HIM ABOUT THE SCHEDULE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL, THE PUBLISHING DATE HAD BEEN POSTPONED, SO WE NEEDED TO POSTPONE THE INTERVIEW, TOO.
SHIMANAKA-SAN WAS SUPPOSED TO FAX HIM THE NEW SCHEDULE.
I...
...WAS NOT INFORMED OF THIS.


WHAT...?
MS. IWAYA MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN TO TELL ME.
HEY.

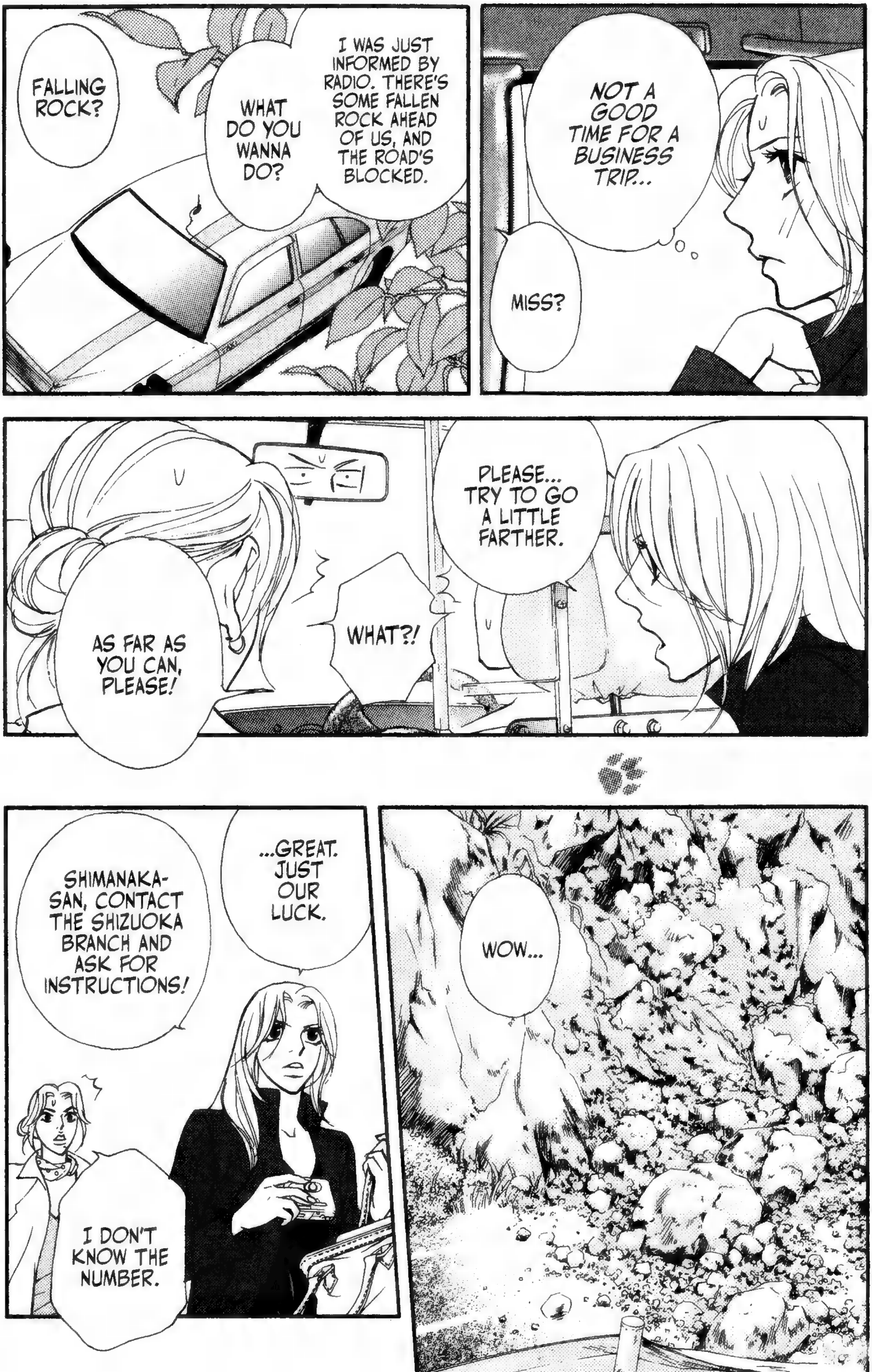
SHIMANAKA
YOU'D BETTER STOP...
...BEFORE I GET *REALLY* MAD.
WE'VE WORKED WITH MS. IWAYA LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW...
...THAT SHE GETS THINGS *DONE.*
YEAH. I SAW MS. IWAYA TELLING SHIMANAKA-SAN ABOUT THAT ON MONDAY.
MS. IWAYA WOULD **NEVER** FORGET SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

SHIMA-NAKA-SAN...
IT'S OKAY. I'LL FOLLOW UP WITH HER LATER.
SO NOW I HAVE TO HANDLE THIS EX POST FACTO, IS THAT IT?!
FINE.
grind
WE'VE WORKED WITH YOU FOR A YEAR! YOU CAN COUNT ON US!
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU KNOW... YOU CAN LEAN ON US FOR HELP SOMETIMES.
MS. IWAYA, I HAD MEANT TO SAY THIS BEFORE...
YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS ARE MORE STEADFAST THAN YOU THINK.
I COMPLETELY AGREE.
BOSS...


...THERE'S BEEN AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR YOUR RELOCATION AS OF JUNE.
YOU'RE MOVING TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT.
YOU'LL BE THE SOFT NEWS COPY EDITOR OVER THERE.
WOW-- COPY EDITOR ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WAY TO GO!
THAT'S SO COOL, MS. IWAYA!
YEAH! WE GOTTA CELEBRATE!
NEARLY IN TEARS
WE'RE GONNA MISS YOU SO MUCH, BUT...
...GOOD LUCK!

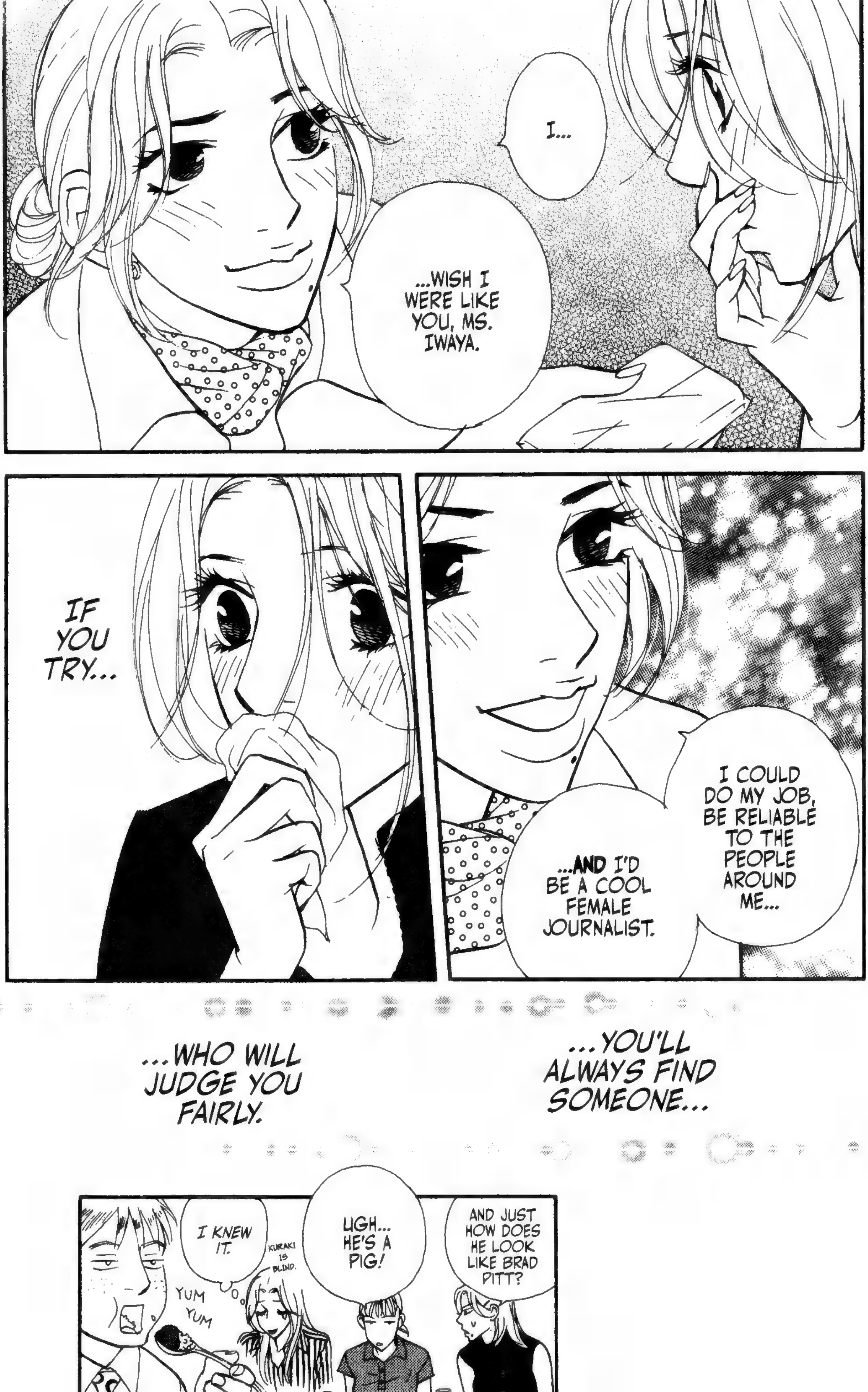
THANK YOU...

......


NOT A GOOD TIME FOR A BUSINESS TRIP...
MISS?
I WAS JUST INFORMED BY RADIO. THERE'S SOME FALLEN ROCK AHEAD OF US, AND THE ROAD'S BLOCKED.
WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO?
FALLING ROCK?
PLEASE... TRY TO GO A LITTLE FARTHER.
WHAT?!
AS FAR AS YOU CAN, PLEASE!
WOW...
...GREAT. JUST OUR LUCK.
SHIMANAKA-SAN, CONTACT THE SHIZUOKA BRANCH AND ASK FOR INSTRUCTIONS!
I DON'T KNOW THE NUMBER.

HERE YOU GO! THIRD PAGE OF THE APPENDIX.
gulp
IF THAT FALLS...
AH!
ガラガラ
ガラ
!

MS. IWAYA!!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
ARE YOU INJURED?!
......
I'M GREAT!! I GOT A SHOT BEFORE IT FELL!!
PFFT
W-WHAT?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE
YOUR NOSE IS BLEEDING.
EH?


I...
...WISH I WERE LIKE YOU, MS. IWAYA.
I COULD DO MY JOB, BE RELIABLE TO THE PEOPLE AROUND ME...
...AND I'D BE A COOL FEMALE JOURNALIST.
IF YOU TRY...
...YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND SOMEONE...
...WHO WILL JUDGE YOU FAIRLY.
AND JUST HOW DOES HE LOOK LIKE BRAD PITT?
UGH... HE'S A PIG!
KURAKI IS BLIND.
I KNEW IT.
YUM YUM

Rule 28

WHAT KIND OF PET OWNER ARE YOU?

START COUNTING.
AT THE FOURTH ROUND OF THE SIX-COUNT, THE ODD TIMING FROM THE FIRST ROUND COMES BACK IN FOR TWO BEATS. TANG TANG.
AND RIGHT AFTER THAT, GRAND JETE.
ENTRANCE IS LATE AGAIN.
A HALF BEAT...NO, A QUARTER BEAT...?
AND THEN... THE LIFT...

ドサッ
MILK
ニッコリマート
AAAHHH...
...AAHHHH...!!
AH...
...SUMIRE, YOU'RE HOME.
DON'T "YOU'RE HOME" ME! YOU WERE LYING THERE WITH THE LIGHTS OFF...
...I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!!
I'M JUST... SO SLEEPY...
YOU'VE STILL GOT YOUR BAG ON, EVEN... AND YOUR STOMACH WAS SHOWING!

LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW...
HEH HEH!
...I GUESS THERE WERE SOME WARNING SIGNS.
YOU DONE WITH YOUR BATH YET, SUMIRE?
PUTTING... ON... CLOTHES!
Knock knock
I GOTTA TAKE A PEE.
HOLD IT.
BUT I CANNNN'T!
DO IT ANYWAY.
ガチャッ
KYAAAAAA!!
SHEESH, IT'S OKAY. YOU KNOW I'M JUST A PET.
NOT A HUMAN... JUST A PET.

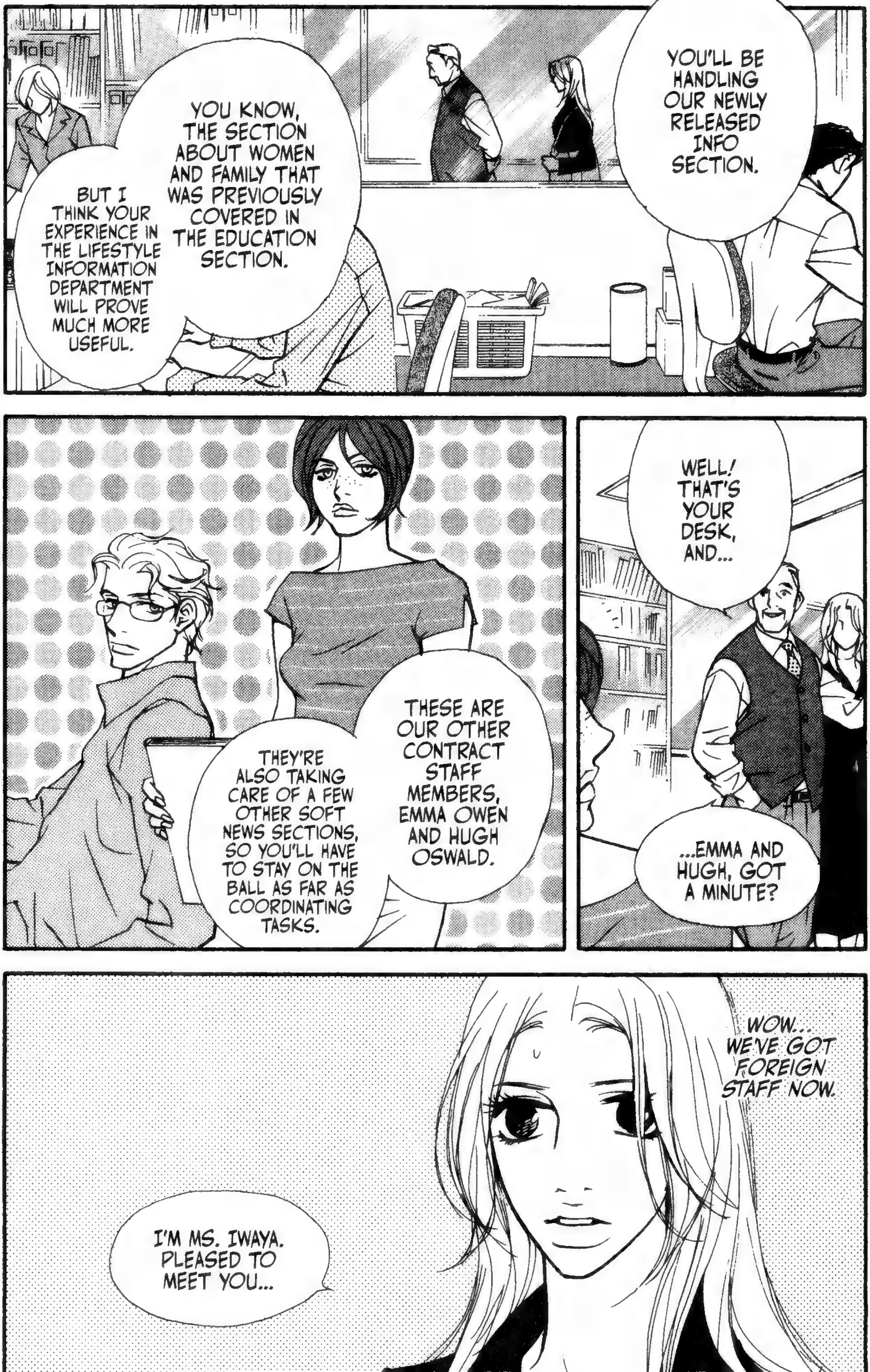
GOLDEN RULE OF HANDLING PETS:
IF THEY MAKE MISCHIEF, SCOLD THEM RIGHT AT THAT MOMENT.
I AM SO SORRY. I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
CAN I PEE NOW?
SAY IT AGAIN... AND ADD "NEVER."
THOSE LITTLE CHANGES THAT ARE FORGOTTEN IN OUR DAILY LIVES.
THAT'S ALL IT WAS... UNTIL NOW.
CHEERS!
chink
SO YOU FINALLY START YOUR NEW JOB NEXT WEEK.
BET YOU'RE PRETTY BUSY HANDING OVER ALL THOSE DUTIES.
ACTUALLY, NOT REALLY.
DIDN'T HAVE TOO MANY IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO...
...I AM RATHER WORRIED ABOUT MY ENGLISH, THOUGH.
I'VE BEEN OUT OF PRACTICE.
OH, COME ON.
YOU'LL DO FINE.

I HAVE KIND OF GOOD NEWS MYSELF.
IT SEEMS I CAN CONTINUE WORKING AT HEADQUARTERS FOR A WHILE.
EH?
WELL, ORIGINALLY, HORIKAWA-SAN FROM THE HONG KONG BUREAU WAS SUPPOSED TO COME BACK HERE, SO HE HAD CALLED ON ME TO TAKE HIS PLACE...
...BUT THE STORY HE'D BEEN FOLLOWING TOOK A SUDDEN TURN OR SOMETHING.
SO NOW HE'S PUT IN A FORMAL REQUEST TO STAY A LITTLE LONGER.
OH... RIGHT.
I SHOULDN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY, SHOULD I?
IF HE DID GO, IT'D DEFINITELY BE A PROMOTION.
BUT... I'M HAPPY.
HMM... SHE DOESN'T LOOK THAT HAPPY.
THE SITUATION ISN'T GONE FOREVER, THOUGH...
...IF THEY CALL ON ME, I'LL STILL HAVE TO GO.
......

SENPAI...
...I'M GOING HOME NOW.
UMM...
......
ZZZ...
HE WON'T WAKE UP.
HE JUST GOT OFF HIS NIGHT SHIFT, SO...
...I'D BETTER NOT WAKE HIM. I'LL JUST GO HOME.
HE HASN'T ASKED ME TO COME WITH HIM... SINCE WE TALKED.
AS SOON AS HE RELOCATES, OUR LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP WILL START.

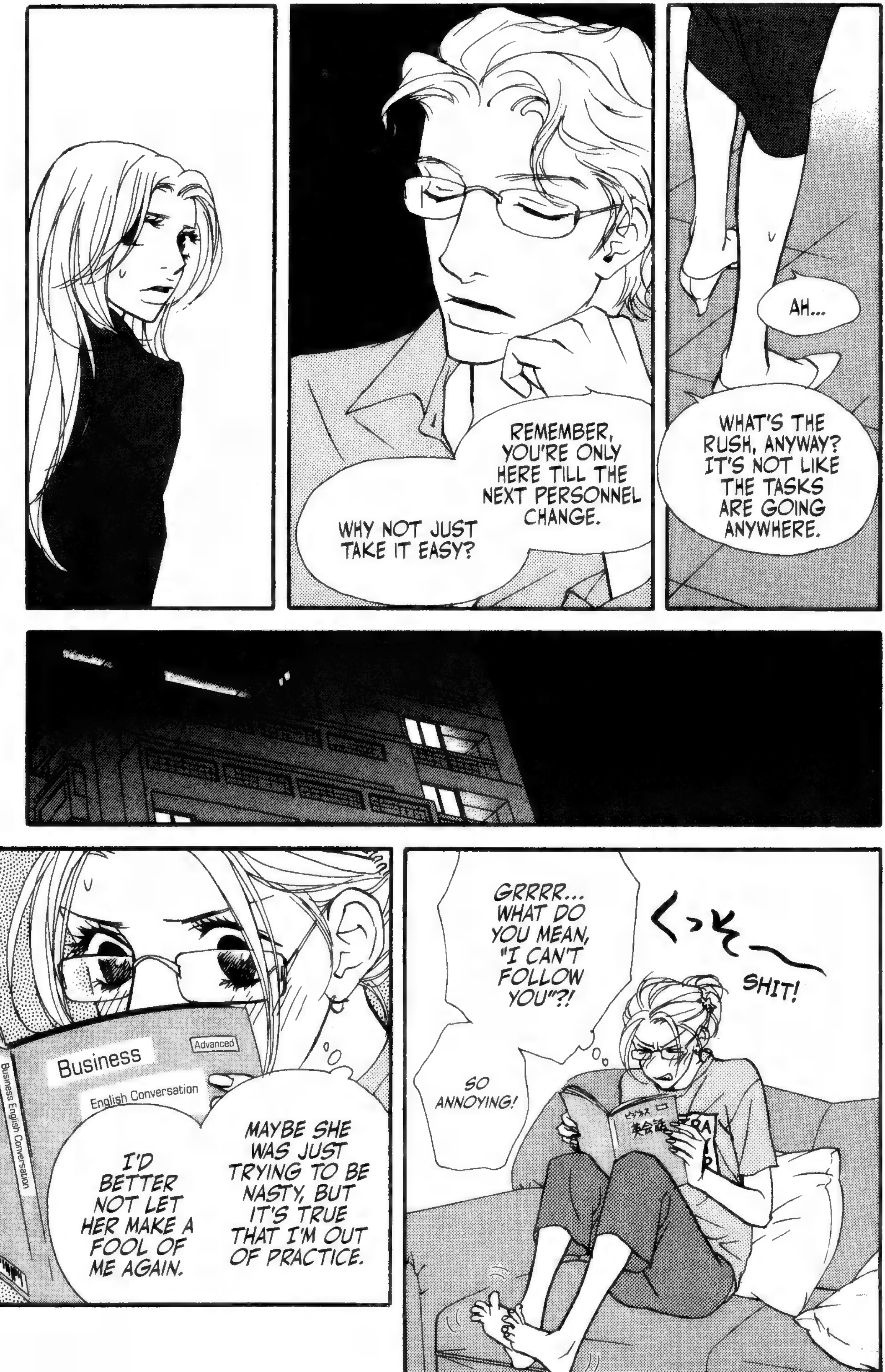
WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL ALL THAT DISTANCE MAKE? I DON'T KNOW.
BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT I'M NOT DESPAIRING.
BECAUSE EVEN AFTER EIGHT YEARS, I CAN STILL ERASE MY FEELINGS.
DISSOLVE AND DISSIPATE THEM...LIKE HOT SPRING POWDER IN A BATH. ♡
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
MOMO ...?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

EH?
YOU'RE NOT EATING AT ALL...
...IS THE FOOD BAD OR SOMETHING?
NAH, IT'S NOT THAT.
I JUST DON'T HAVE AN APPETITE... SORRY.
THANK YOU!
BUT I'LL EAT IT TOMORROW-- PLEASE DON'T THROW IT AWAY.
Rattle
THAT'S UNUSUAL...
MAYBE... HE ATE TOO MANY SNACKS...?
KODAN JOURNAL BUREAU
OH, HELLO.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MS. IWAYA.
HE KODAN JOURNAL


YOU'LL BE HANDLING OUR NEWLY RELEASED INFO SECTION.
YOU KNOW, THE SECTION ABOUT WOMEN AND FAMILY THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY COVERED IN THE EDUCATION SECTION.
BUT I THINK YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE LIFESTYLE INFORMATION DEPARTMENT WILL PROVE MUCH MORE USEFUL.
WELL! THAT'S YOUR DESK, AND...
...EMMA AND HUGH, GOT A MINUTE?
THESE ARE OUR OTHER CONTRACT STAFF MEMBERS, EMMA OWEN AND HUGH OSWALD.
THEY'RE ALSO TAKING CARE OF A FEW OTHER SOFT NEWS SECTIONS, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY ON THE BALL AS FAR AS COORDINATING TASKS.
WOW... WE'VE GOT FOREIGN STAFF NOW.
I'M MS. IWAYA. PLEASED TO MEET YOU...

I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH.
MOST OF THE ENGLISH SECTION IS JUST FILLED WITH REPRINTS FROM THE MAIN PAPER AND ITS AFFILIATES.
ALL YOU REALLY NEED IS A KNACK FOR HEADINGS AND LAYOUT.
BUT...IT'S STILL A NEW SECTION, SO I HAVE TO MAKE SURE IT COMES OUT GOOD...
PFF. SUCH A DEDICATED WORKER!
LOOK, THE SALARIED STAFF JUST CONSIDERS US TEMPS.
I WOULDN'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT IF I WERE YOU.
MISS OWEN?
I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS THE LAYOUT WITH YOU. ARE YOU FREE TOMORROW AT 2:00 P.M.?

YOUR PRONUNCIATION IS UNCLEAR. I CAN'T FOLLOW YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
......?
EXCUSE ME...AH...
OH, SORRY, I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT. PLEASE EXCUSE ME.



AH...
WHAT'S THE RUSH, ANYWAY? IT'S NOT LIKE THE TASKS ARE GOING ANYWHERE.
REMEMBER, YOU'RE ONLY HERE TILL THE NEXT PERSONNEL CHANGE.
WHY NOT JUST TAKE IT EASY?
GRRRR... WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "I CAN'T FOLLOW YOU"?!
SO ANNOYING!
くっそ〜
SHIT!
Business
Advanced
English Conversation
Business English Conversation
MAYBE SHE WAS JUST TRYING TO BE NASTY, BUT IT'S TRUE THAT I'M OUT OF PRACTICE.
I'D BETTER NOT LET HER MAKE A FOOL OF ME AGAIN.

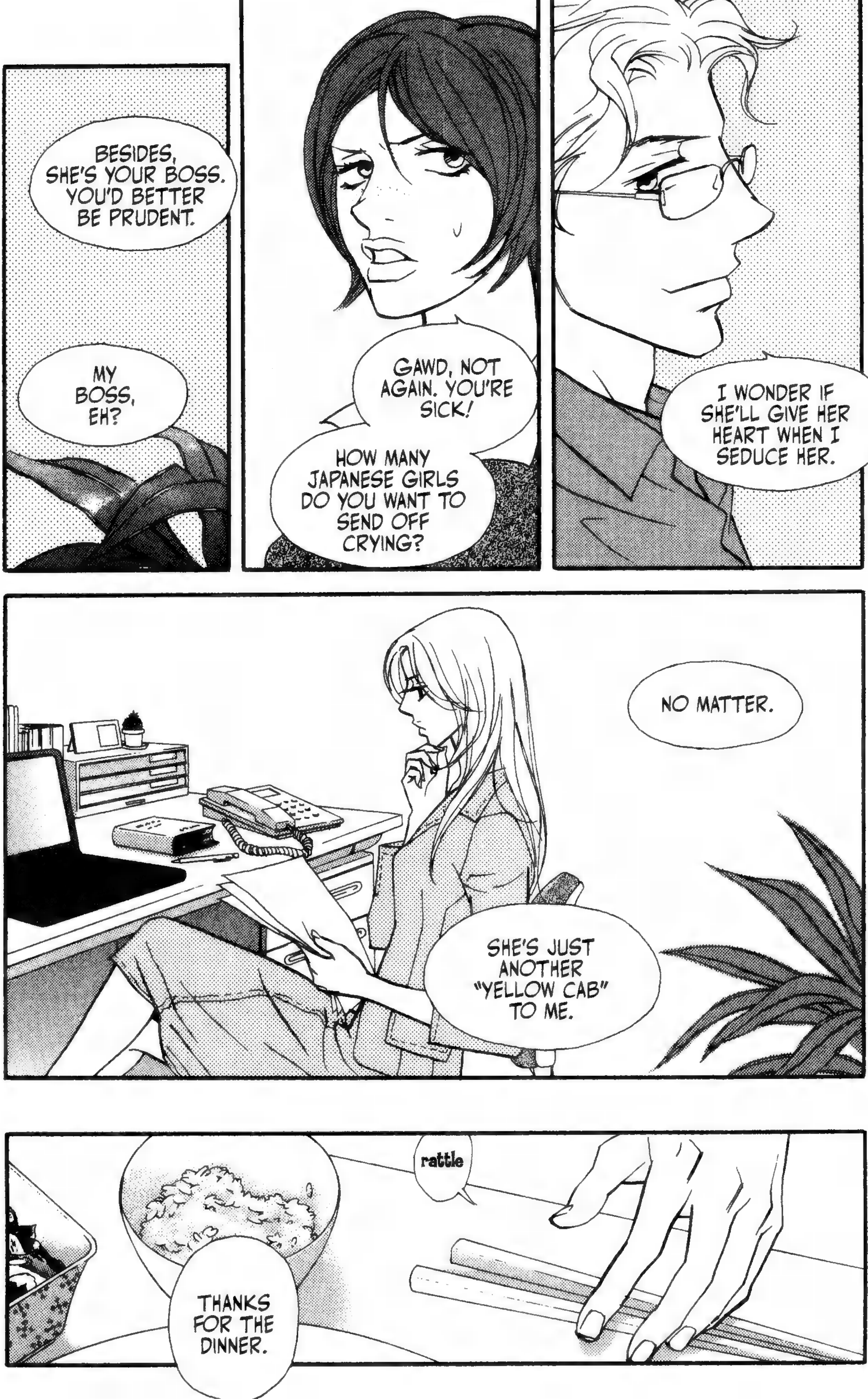
STOP IT!
JEEZ...
PURRR
PURRR
HE USUALLY CUDDLES WITH ME WHEN I READ A BOOK HERE.
IS HE SHYING AWAY 'CAUSE I HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO HIM?
ALL RIGHT... I'LL TEASE HIM A LITTLE BIT. ♡
C'MERE, MOMO!
pat pat
EXTRA HEAVY SYRUP

よっこらせっと
どっこらせっと
WHAT WAS THAT...?
ムカッ......
WHERE IS THIS MARTYR ATTITUDE COMING FROM?
HE'S EVEN SIGHING!
sigh...
pinch
WHAT?
NOTHING...

*A BALL-SHAPED JAPANESE SNACK.

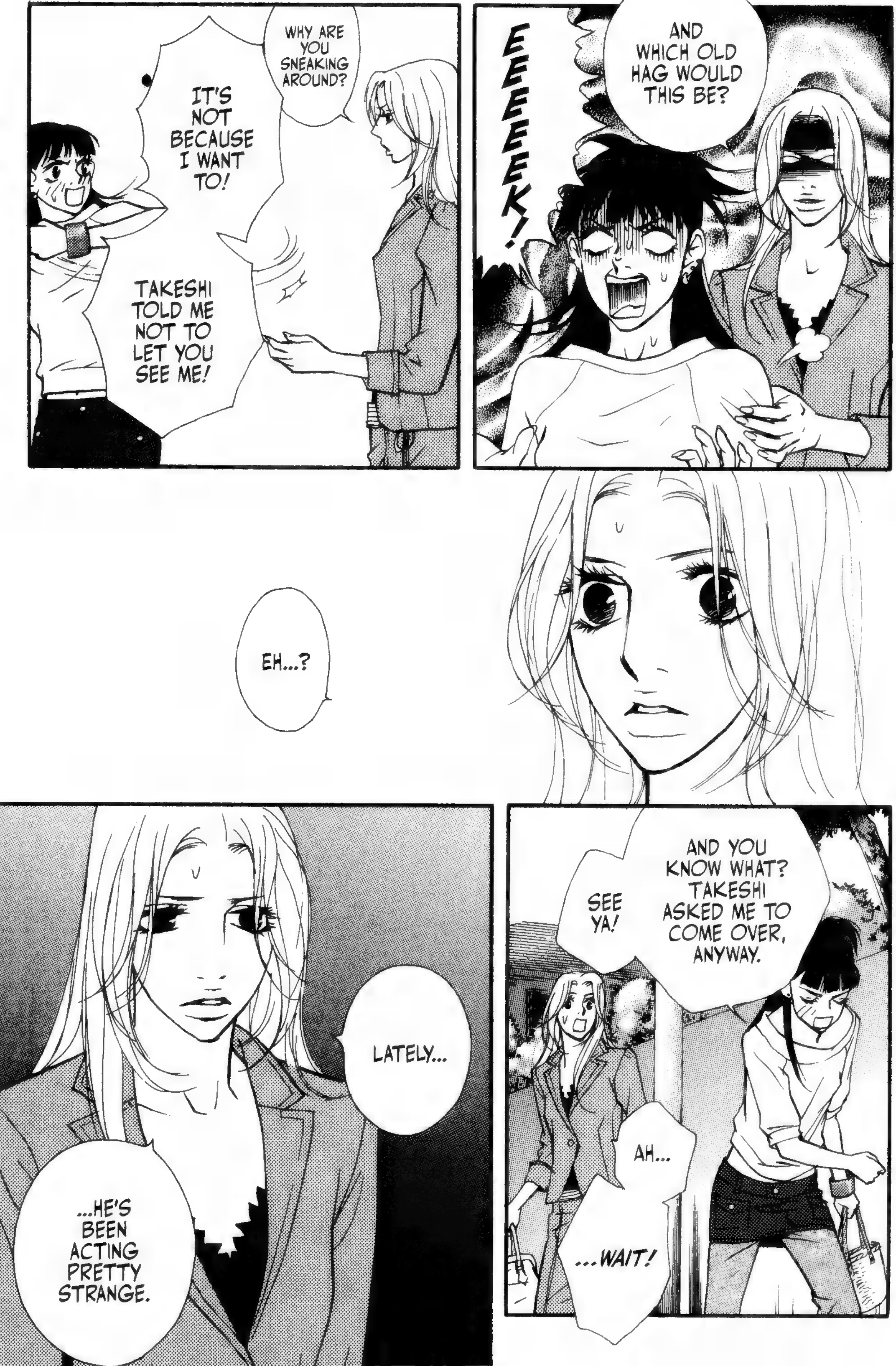
*A DUMPLING SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO THE SHAPE OF AN EAR.

I GOTTA GET UP EARLY, SO I'M GOING TO BED NOW.
SUMIRE?
HMM? WHAT'S UP?
AH...
...OKAY.
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT SHE'S GOT A GUY IN THE OFFICE, YOU KNOW.
HMM... I DON'T CARE.
I CAN'T STAND THAT WOMAN.
SHE'S FAR TOO ENTHUSIASTIC FOR A TEMP.
WELL, IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE BEGINNING.

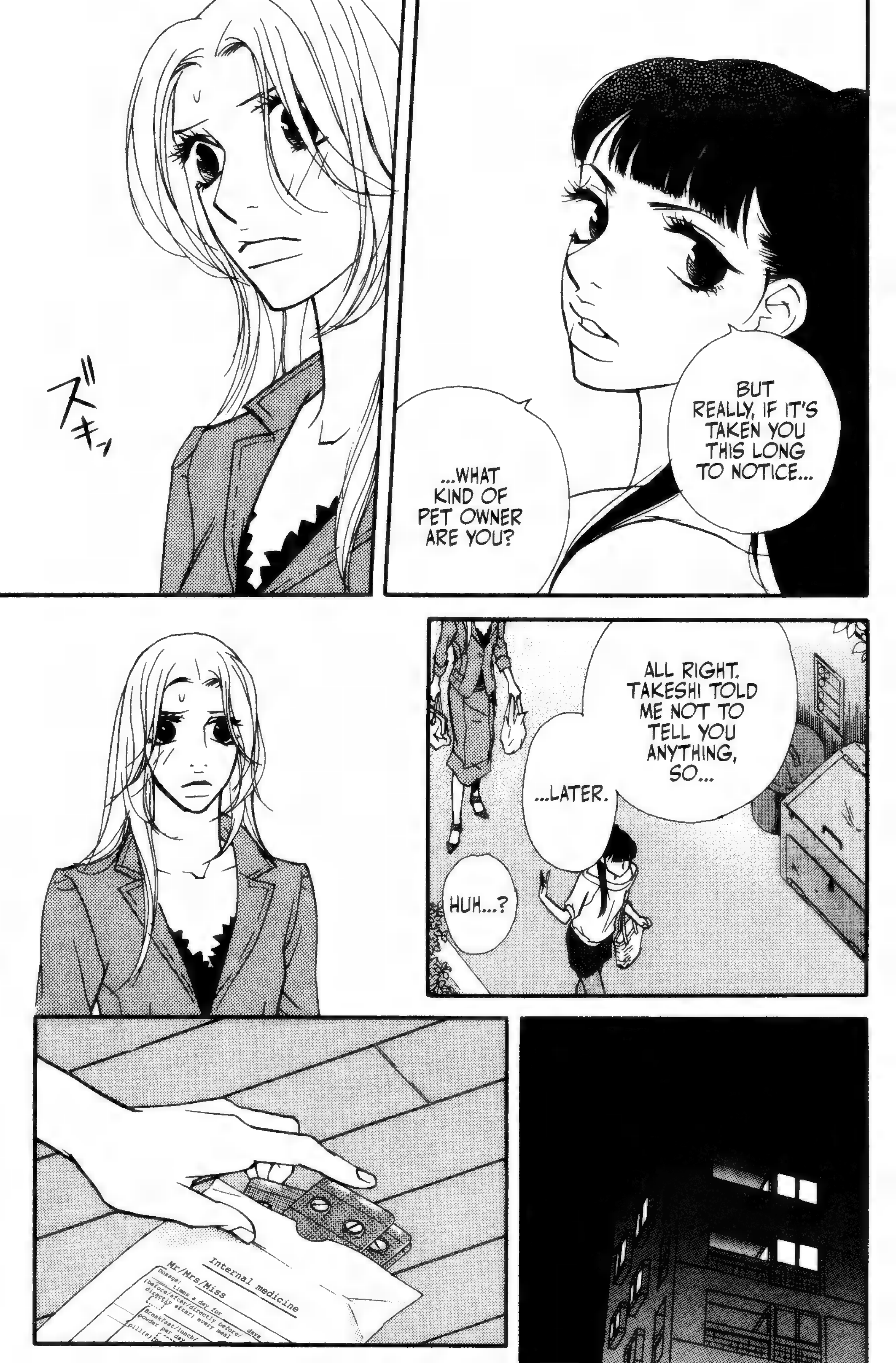

BESIDES, SHE'S YOUR BOSS. YOU'D BETTER BE PRUDENT.
MY BOSS, EH?
GAWD, NOT AGAIN. YOU'RE SICK!
HOW MANY JAPANESE GIRLS DO YOU WANT TO SEND OFF CRYING?
I WONDER IF SHE'LL GIVE HER HEART WHEN I SEDUCE HER.
NO MATTER.
SHE'S JUST ANOTHER "YELLOW CAB" TO ME.
rattle
THANKS FOR THE DINNER.

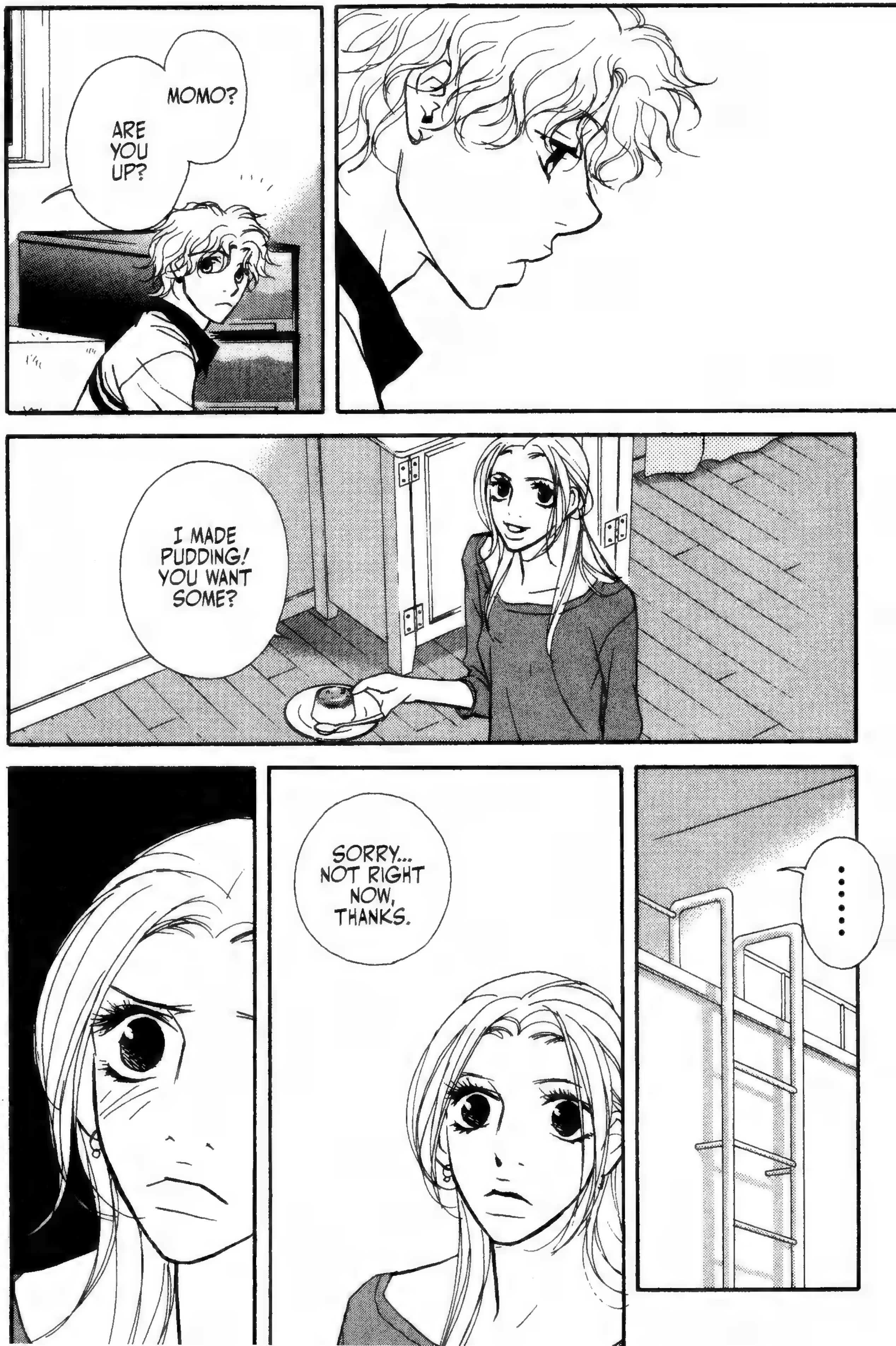
YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED YOUR FOOD AGAIN.
YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING OKAY?
I'M FINE...
...I JUST DON'T LIKE TO EAT AFTER 11:00.
IT'S NOT HEALTHY, YOU KNOW.
GREAT.
OH...
...YOU DON'T?
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS NOW?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT ALL OF A SUDDEN?

SHIBUSAWA-SAN?
?!
SHIT!
huff huff
huff huff
DID I LOSE HER?
HUH...
...GOOD. THAT OLD HAG IS A PIECE OF CAKE!


AND WHICH OLD HAG WOULD THIS BE?
EEEEEEK!
WHY ARE YOU SNEAKING AROUND?
IT'S NOT BECAUSE I WANT TO!
TAKESHI TOLD ME NOT TO LET YOU SEE ME!
EH...?
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? TAKESHI ASKED ME TO COME OVER, ANYWAY.
SEE YA!
AH...
...WAIT!
LATELY...
...HE'S BEEN ACTING PRETTY STRANGE.

STRANGE? STRANGE HOW?
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME.
I WOULDN'T WORRY.
YOU KNOW. HAVING NO APPETITE...
...STARING OFF INTO SPACE.
LOOKING AS IF...YOU KNOW... HIS MIND IS SOMEWHERE ELSE.
EH?
EITHER YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED...
...OR HE'S KEEPING IT FROM YOU.
NOT THAT IT'S *MY* BUSINESS.


BUT REALLY, IF IT'S TAKEN YOU THIS LONG TO NOTICE...
...WHAT KIND OF PET OWNER ARE YOU?
ズキッ
ALL RIGHT. TAKESHI TOLD ME NOT TO TELL YOU ANYTHING, SO...
...LATER.
HUH...?
Internal medicine
Mr/Mrs/Miss

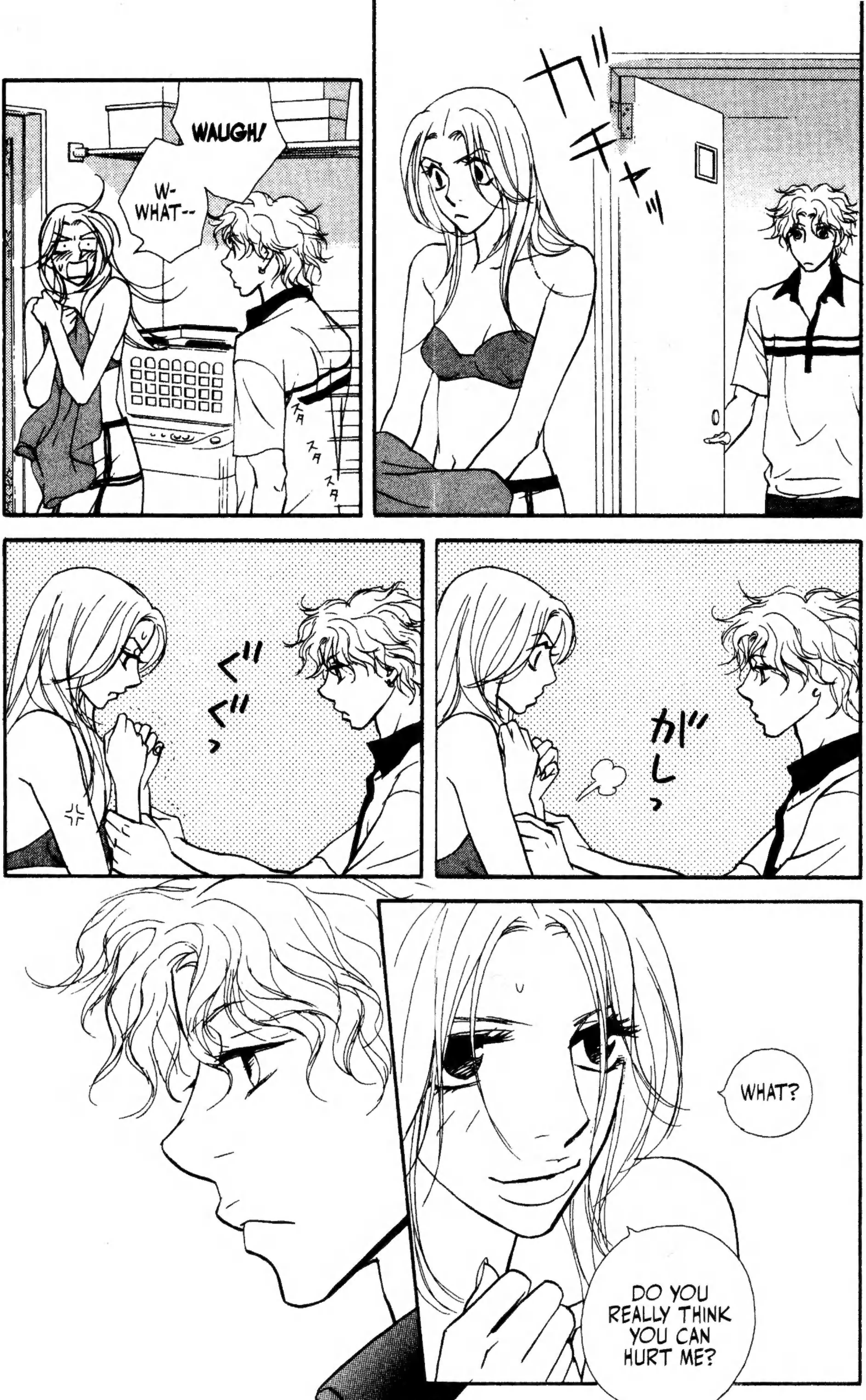

MOMO?
ARE YOU UP?
I MADE PUDDING! YOU WANT SOME?
SORRY... NOT RIGHT NOW, THANKS.
......

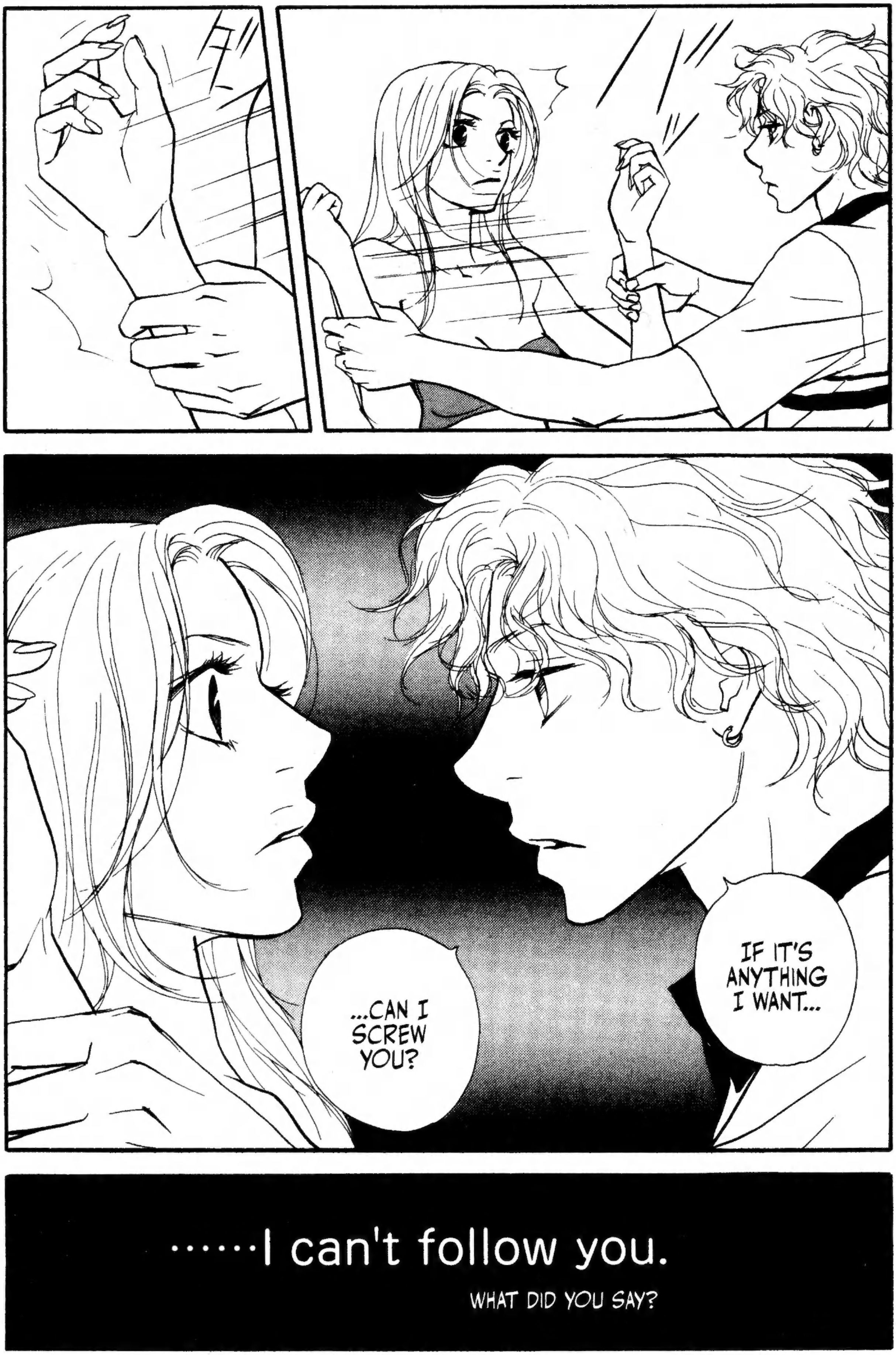
pad
pad
pad
EAT.
......
clank
clank

Clank
THANK YOU.
HEY.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU KNOW-- YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD.
I MEAN, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS.
IS THERE SOMETHING THAT'S BOTHERING YOU?
DID ANYTHING UPSETTING HAPPEN?
WHAT KIND OF PET OWNER ARE YOU?!
OR...MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?

WELL... THERE IS SOMETHING. BUT...
GREAT! WHAT IS IT?
ANYTHING YOU WANT. JUST TELL ME.
TELLING YOU WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
BUT YOU CAN TELL IT TO HER?!
AH...
......

*FRIED RICE COVERED WITH EGG, WHICH MAKES IT LOOK LIKE AN OMELET FROM THE OUTSIDE.


WAUGH!
W- WHAT--
WHAT?
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN HURT ME?


IF IT'S ANYTHING I WANT...
...CAN I SCREW YOU?
……I can't follow you.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

THE END...?

OGAWA VERSION

MA-CHAN GOES FOR IT!

I DON'T REALLY WATCH TV, SO ALL THIS TIME I BELIEVED THAT KENJI SAKAGUCHI AND HIDEAKI ITOH WERE THE SAME PERSON!
--MATSU

MAIN STAFFS

original stories&graphics by YAYOI OGAWA
editor in charge・・・M・MATSUI
graphic assistants・・・JUNJUN,K・YOSHIHISA
M・OHNISHI,H・YUGA,N・SHIMA

CHECK IT!

THE OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE OF YAYOI OGAWA

EXTRA HEAVY SYRUP

HTTP://WWW.LINKCLUB.OR.JP/~ASASIN

You're My Pet 5

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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